

# Tom Raffield

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# T've put the hard work in...

I am so excited (and impatient!) to get outside and enjoy the garden this summer, so I'm manifesting blue skies and sunshine. Famous last words? Let's hope not, although we are planning to build a covered deck area just in case! It's the first year I've put a

serious amount of prep work in, ready for the warmer months. I've planned, pruned, propagated, scarified and planted, learning a host of new skills along the way.

66 T've learnt new skills to help me enjoy the garden, come rain or shine 99

We've also been busy trying out some budget landscaping solutions – new fence panelling, raised beds – and I'm crossing my fingers we will get that new decking area ready in time for outdoor hosting, come rain or shine. Eventually it's going to be a fully-functional outdoor kitchen, but we're playing the long game as we can't afford to do it all at once.

For fellow garden-lovers, we'll be packing as much garden content as possible into our pages, from ideas

> and inspiration to expert advice and our tried-and-tested product picks.

Meanwhile, indoors, this month it's all about celebrating colour in a big way, with our Joyful Colour special starting on page 25,

as well as four gorgeous house tours that each prove how colour can totally transform a home. Flicking through this issue, I couldn't help but smile, which totally sums up the feel-good power of colour and all it has to offer.

# idealhome.co.uk THIS MONTH

DON'T MISS...
Easy DIY projects
and ideas for
decorating in a
weekend, from
quick paint tricks

to Ikea hacks.

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Heave

**HEATHER YOUNG, EDITOR** 

### IDEAL HOME EXPERTS



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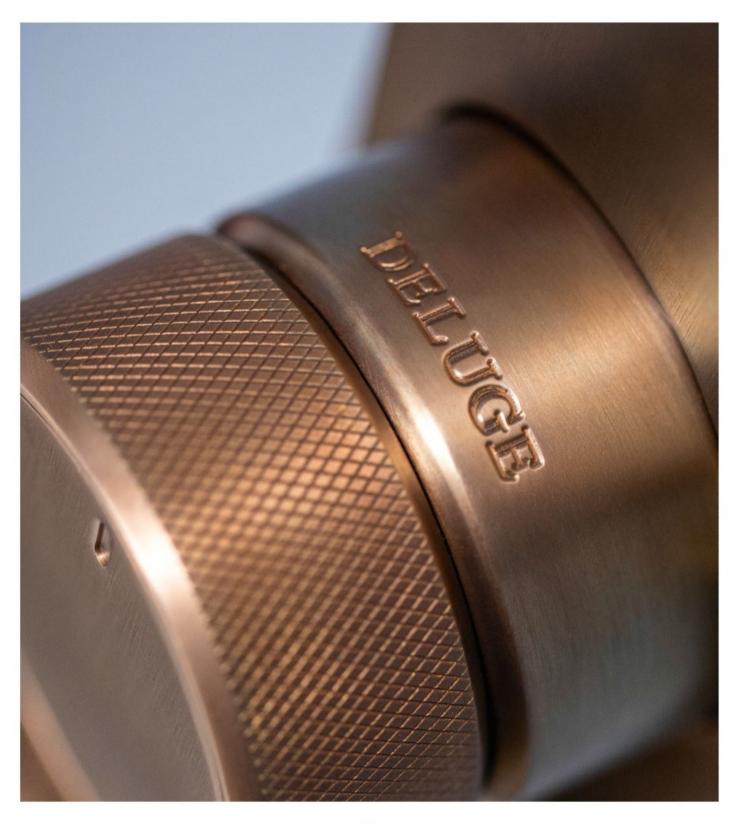
AMY HODGE
GARDEN EXPERT

Amy has worked on some of
the UK's leading interiors
magazines for more than
13 years and is obsessed with
all things garden-related.



LAURIE DAVIDSON
INTERIORS STYLIST
Laurie is a stylist and writer
who lives and breathes
interiors, and knows a thing
or two about how to put the
perfect room together.

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# INSPIRE INFORM | DISCOVER



#### **COLLAB ALERT**

# Glarke & Glarke x Breegan Jane

Fabric house Clarke & Clarke has joined forces with US interior designer Breegan Jane to create a vivid fabric and wallpaper collection. Think tropical prints and African motifs in a pigment-rich palette inspired by lush foliage, sandy landscapes and mesmerising sunsets. We love the African toile Kisumu wallpaper (above) with leopard print Pokot velvet in Spice.

#### **IH LOVES... Lobsters**

Beaded lobster napkin rings, £10 for two, M&S

# What to do this month



**READ** Reinvent your bijou spaces using five small-footprint design principles as prescribed in Never Too Small: Vol 2 by Joel Beath,

Camilla Janse van Vuuren and Colin Chee (£30, Smith Street Books). From creating multi-functional spaces to a family-friendly home, this book is filled with inspiring and sustainable solutions.



**LISTEN** Settle down to some colourful convo with The Chromologist podcast, courtesy of Farrow & Ball and hosted

by the brand's colour expert Patrick O'Donnell. Guests such as Mary Portas, Cerys Matthews and Tan France talk about their connection to the colours that have made an impact in their lives.



**DO** Dress up to the nines this summer and enjoy a day of theatrical music and art, glorious food and horticulture at The

Glyndebourne Festival 2024. Featuring five operas, including Franz Lehár's amusing operetta The Merry Widow, the festival runs from 16 May to 25 August, with tickets starting at just £25.



Bold, bright and beautiful everything we adore in a cushion!

**IH LOVES** 

# HAPPY HABITAT

To celebrate sixty years in design, Habitat has collaborated with iconic designers, plus a few emerging newcomers to the high street, to curate a range of furniture, tableware and accessories. Embodying the brand's past, present and future, there are resurrected favourites from the archives, innovative pieces (including furniture made with recycled denim), and practical gems that will feature in our homes for years to come. Turn to page 16 for an exclusive interview with one of the designers, textile queen Margo Selby.

#### **SURPRISE IN STORE**

# **Natural** palette

We all know about nature's mood-boosting effects, but a daily dose isn't always possible. The good news? It's easy to recreate that feeling, especially

now that George Home has a

collection of nature-inspired buys in store. Soothing green aplenty is teamed with floral prints, a variety of stripes and textural rattan furniture. We're betting a few find their way into your trolley (for the good of your health, obviously!)





# Christian Lacroix × SCHMIDT

MAISON



#### STYLE STATEMENT

# Flower power

If you're a fan of modern coastal, you'll love Laura Ashley's On The Waterfront collection for its classic florals, frills and bobbin details. With pattern clashes, the fear of replicating Granny's living room is real, but take note - stick to a modern palette and light neutrals; choose similar-scale designs; and keep the lower third of a wall plain to stop a busy wallpaper dominating. roll; table runner in old Rye, £43m; Rowe bench in Cariad Spray in Newport Blue, 199, all Laura Ashley



#### WE'RE FOLLOWING



# @cottagerenovation cwmrhys

#### **BEST DECORATING DECISION?**

Using a nature-inspired palette of greens, browns and other earthy tones. It creates such a warm, calming and inviting space.

YOUR SECRET STYLING IDEA? Baskets. baskets and more baskets! I love wicker designs; they're beautiful and practical.

**FAVOURITE CORNER?** Our living room with its inglenook fireplace. I love nothing more than cosying up here in the evening.

#### NAME AN ITEM THAT SPARKS JOY?

Has to be a scented candle, for creating a soft glow and a relaxing atmosphere.

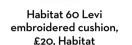
**IH LOVES...** 

This garden bench has caught our eye it's playful and perfect for a sunny spot in your garden. Plus there's chairs and a coffee table to match!

Squiggle bench, £349, John Lewis & Partners



THE TEXTILE DESIGNER PRESENTS HER
LATEST COLLABORATION TO CELEBRATE
THE BRAND'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY



#### **DESCRIBE YOUR NEW COLLECTION...**

It features bold, playful designs for accessories and soft furnishings, inspired by both my archives and those at Habitat. The collection celebrates 60 years of Habitat but it also comes at a notable time for my own studio, which commemorated 20 years in 2023.

### WHAT WAS THE INSPIRATION?

The collection draws from Habitat's graphic, primary aesthetic of the 1970s and '80s. When I visited the archive last year, I felt that the images and catalogues from these eras resonated with my ongoing fascination with typography and its potential in pattern design. The collection also references fragments of hand-drawn geometric patterns, which I developed and combined with key elements of my own style. I show how patterns can be simplified in pure blocks of colour to create something joyful and uplifting.

### WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE?

The Sixty cushion design is one of my favourites. It incorporates the number 60

into the design which is a nod to Habitat's anniversary, while keeping the overall effect abstract and playful.

# YOU'VE COLLABORATED WITH OTHER BRANDS, INCLUDING HABITAT, BEFORE. WHAT WAS IT LIKE TO DESIGN FOR THE COMPANY THIS TIME AROUND?

Habitat was one of the first companies that I worked with when I started my business, with some of the designs enduring to this day. The company has been



very generous with access to its archive and in sharing its expertise, especially when I was designing products that are less familiar to me, such as lighting. Habitat has also been open to my interpretation of the brief, which has allowed the collection to feel part of both its design aesthetic and my own.

#### YOUR TRADEMARK AS A DESIGNER IS YOUR FANTASTIC USE OF COLOUR AND PATTERN. HOW DO YOU CHOOSE THE COMBINATIONS?

Colour has always been an instinctive thing for me. I am a maximalist with colour and using an abundance of it while designing and weaving can uplift the spirit. Putting colours together can bring joy as they resonate and create harmony.

#### AND WHAT IS YOUR ADVICE FOR USING COLOUR AND PATTERN IN THE HOME?

Bringing in colourful accessories is a great way to instantly transform your space. Don't be afraid to combine different colours

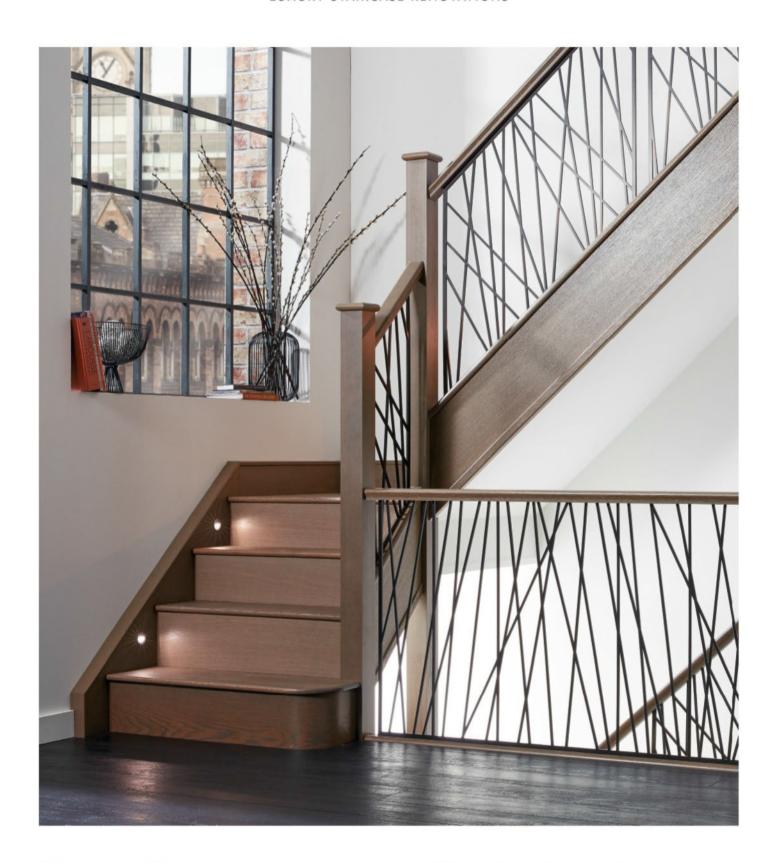
and patterns. Choosing what you love without worrying too much about it matching will result in a colourful and characterful interior.

## IS THERE SOMETHING THAT YOU'D LIKE TO DESIGN BUT YOU HAVEN'T YET?

I'm working more and more on using textiles beyond the domestic space and have a particular interest in public art installations. Pattern and colour in this context creates a joyful experience for everyone.

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Now and then, the high street comes up with something so utterly fabulous, it looks as if it's come from a designer boutique. Here are some of our latest discoveries that will make your home look more expensive without the big spend...

WHERE TO BUY 1 Idah wall hanging, £45, French Connection 2 Earthed mango wood bowl, £7.99, Home Bargains 3 Scalloped jute Green-border runner, £65, Oliver Bonas 4 Medium Lustre storage jar, £4, Nutmeg Home at Morrisons 5 Bamboo and jute stool, £16.80, Søstrene Grene 6 Tropical crewel cushion, £8, B&M



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PHOTOGRAPH FUTURECONTENTHUB.COM/SIMON WHITMORE



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# NEED TO KNOW

# Colour blocking

DISCOVER HOW TO USE THIS VIBRANT PAINT TECHNIQUE LIKE AN EXPERT

#### **FOCAL POINT**

Enhance a fireplace with contrasting colours and display decorative pieces to complete the look



JUNE 2024 25 IDEALHOME.CO.UK



#### SHELVING DISPLAY

Paint the back of a recess in different colours, here using shades by Fenwick & Tilbrook, to show off your treasures

# **ELEVATE ARTWORK**

Pick out a subtle colour from a favourite print, and paint a block on the wall to frame it



rea yo coo

reathe new life into your interiors with colour blocking and get creative with your favourite palettes.

This tried and trusted design method is well known for its ability to inject vibrancy and personality into rooms. Far from being a one-size-fits-all approach, colour blocking can be used in a multitude of ways throughout the home. Whether it's livening up your living room or transforming a spare bedroom from drab to fab, colour blocking is one of the best tools to have in your interior design skill set.

#### WHAT IS COLOUR BLOCKING?

Put simply, this design technique is the combination of multiple colours in one area of the home. The separation between each colour is distinct, created with clearly defined lines; and the often geometric shapes or areas are then filled in with contrasting solid colours.

'Colour blocking is an easy and effective way to personalise any space,' says Anna Hill, brand director and colour consultant at paint specialist Fenwick & Tilbrook. 'It can break up monotony and create a dynamic focal point in a room, allowing you to showcase your unique style through either bold colour choices or more subtle accents.'

#### **HOW TO USE IT**

Colour blocking isn't restrictive, and it can be used in any room in the house, but you may find that it works best in spaces where you want to create a focal point. 'It is great for defining a zone within a larger open-plan space, such as a dining area, or highlighting specific architectural features,' explains Anna.

For example, you might have a bedroom with sloping ceilings. You could use colour blocking on the walls to accentuate this aspect of the room, incorporating the ceilings into the design rather than leaving them plain.

Colour blocking can appear on a larger scale with adjoining walls painted in different colours. Or a smaller area can be highlighted, with a darker colour painted up to dado height or halfway up the wall, and the top area in a lighter, neutral tone. 'The demarcation can occur at any height that suits the size of your room, but it typically works between half and three-quarters of the way up the wall,' says Kate Duckworth, trends and interiors expert, Swift Direct Blinds. You could accentuate your colour blocking

further by incorporating other elements of your décor. Co-ordinate furnishings and accessories with your chosen colours to emphasise contrast and create interesting focal points in the space.

'Try designing combinations to highlight architectural details, such as fireplaces, alcoves or archways,' suggests Kate. 'A colour-blocked accent wall can also define different areas within a room without the need for partitions, creating, for example, a dedicated work space, reading nook, or play area.'

#### **CHOOSING COLOURS**

Part of the beauty of this method is that there aren't really any rules to follow when it comes to what colours you go for. Try playing around with different combinations by creating a mood board and experiment with tester pots on the wall before you start painting.

'For guidance, you can use a colour wheel to find complementary tones (see below),' says Kate. 'There are no restrictions on how many colours you can choose, but three is recommended. Use colour to manipulate the perceived size and shape of your room. Lighter shades open up the space, while darker tones create a cosy, intimate feel.'

You can make a statement by applying two sharply contrasting colours, such as red and green, or go for a softer, more relaxed feel with different shades of the same colour, such as blues or pinks. The latter method works well when trying to create a relaxed, soothing atmosphere, such as in a bedroom.



#### FOLLOW THIS METHOD FOR PERFECT RESULTS

Fenwick & Tilbrook's colour consultant Anna Hill shares her step-by-step guide on how to succeed at colour blocking in your home

- First, plan your design. Gather inspiration from magazines and websites, sketch it out on paper or use online creative tools.
- Choose your colours. Select two or three that will work well together. For a subtle effect use harmonious tones (colours that sit alongside each other on the colour wheel), or for a more dynamic look go for complementary colours (opposites on the wheel).
- Prep your surface. Clean your walls to ensure they are free from grime and dust and apply a good-quality decorator's tape if your design is angular or geometric. For mural-style colour blocking, freehand designs can

- be lightly sketched out on the wall with a pencil to help guide you.
- Apply your first colour, letting it dry before moving onto the next. Use good-quality tools, either a roller or brush, for an even finish. Carefully remove the tape once the paint is touch-dry to reveal your masterpiece.
- 'If you are unsure about colour blocking in your space, try it on a small scale before committing to a larger area,' says Anna. 'And always consider the existing elements of the room first. Take into account the colours and textures of the furniture, flooring and any other decorative accessories to ensure a cohesive finished look.'



#### LOOKS THAT LAST

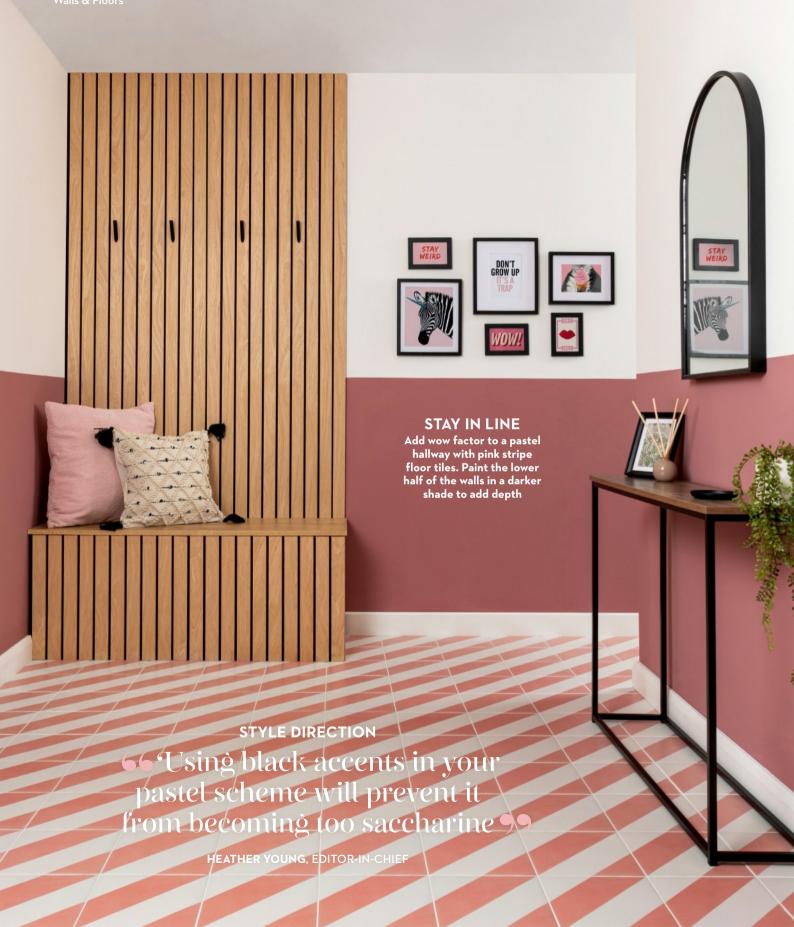


# MODERN pastels

TRENDS COME AND GO, BUT HERE'S HOW TO GIVE THIS LOOK TIMELESS APPEAL

# STYLE DIRECTION **66**A successful pastel scheme uses white to let colours pop and wood to ground bold patterns 99 GINEVRA BENEDETTI, DEPUTY EDITOR CURVE APPEAL Choose two or three muted pastel shades over sugary hues and paint an organic shaped wall mural for a more grown up feel Wall painted in Snowdrop, Rusty Rose, Tarnished Brass and Bridesmaid, from £27 for 1ltr pure matt emulsion, Fenwick & Tilbrook. Try Model O2 three-seater sofa in Mustard, £1,699, Swyft

Zebra Pink and White floor tiles, £34.95sq m,





# ADD NATURAL ELEMENTS

Whether you're using varying tones of one colour or layering a mix of shades such as mint green, yellow and lilac, contrast your chosen palette with textured finishes like wooden furniture, rattan lighting and sisal flooring. Using these organic textures will give the space a more timeless, sophisticated appeal.

#### DON'T FORGET WHITE

Unlike stronger colours, you can combine several different pastel shades in one scheme without it becoming overwhelming; the trick is to balance them with white, or a very pale neutral. Adding white, either on the upholstery, walls, or in a fabric or wallpaper design will allow the colours you've chosen to breathe.

# BE BOLD WITH YOUR DESIGN

Pastel shades naturally create a calm backdrop, which means you can be bolder with your choice of patterns without overpowering the space. Wide stripes in bright orange, yellow and purple would be too much, but the same design in soft lilac, lemon and apricot will appear refreshingly beautiful.

# THE NEW NEUTRALS

Soft pastels can be used instead of neutrals in a bedroom or living room scheme. A muted pink works well as it's a shade that sits nicely with a lot of other colours. Use it as the dominant colour across 60% of the room, adding a second harmonious shade and a bolder accent across the remaining 30 and 10 per cent.





FEATURE CHARLOTTE BOYD







JUNE 2024 **36 IDEALHOME.CO.UK** 



## Make your wall a work of art

Take inspiration from abstract paintings and brighten a white wall with colourful overlapping shapes. This works best to create a backdrop for low pieces of furniture, such as a bed, dining table or sofa.

Give it a twist...
Use the painted shapes as a frame for pictures or wall hooks hung with storage baskets.











**FEATURE** VANESSA RICHMOND **PHOTOGRAPHS** FUTURECONTENTHUB.COM/ DOMINIC BLACKMORE, JOANNA HENDERSON, CAROLYN BARBER, KATIE LEE



GETTING YOUR ROOM DÉCOR JUST RIGHT TAKES RESEARCH, PRACTICAL KNOW-HOW AND A LITTLE SOUL SEARCHING, SAY OUR EXPERTS





## MEET THE EXPERTS

KATHRYN LLOYD, COLOUR SPECIALIST, CROWN PAINTS

'The most effective schemes embrace the size and shape of a room, working with it even if this means going against design rules.'

MELANIE ARCHER, COLOUR EXPERT, JOHN LEWIS & PARTNERS

'People are intuitively drawn to certain colours; personally, I love being outdoors so earthy tones and greens appeal to me.'

**SOPHIE ROBINSON**, COLOUR EXPERT, TV PRESENTER AND INTERIOR DESIGNER

'I'm loving lilac. It's been unfashionable for so long, but we are now seeing it being used in such fabulous ways.'



hinking about injecting a little more colour into your home? Whether you want a new accent shade or a full-on makeover, finding the colours that make your heart sing can be a daunting

process. From mood boards to moody blues, swatches to shades, and colour theory to colours that make you smile, we asked our trio of interiors experts to share their top tips for creating that perfect scheme.

#### **KEEP IT PERSONAL**

'With so much choice, it can be tricky knowing where to start,' says Kathryn, 'but your home should be an extension of your personality. Try to choose those shades that really resonate with you.' Sophie says that we should try to avoid starting with that paint swatch or big-ticket item. 'You have to ask yourself what the room is being used for,' she says. 'Who is using it, and how you want to feel in that space, and then the colour needs to support that activity and feeling.' Melanie agrees, 'It's not just about creating a room that looks good, but one that makes you feel good too.' Kathryn continues, 'Trends

are great sources of inspiration, but choosing shades that you have a natural connection with will give your design authenticity and longevity, meaning you won't feel the need to repaint every few months.'

'Colour is a very emotive thing,' explains Sophie. 'It's basically light that travels through the eye and gets interpreted through the emotional side of our brains. So, the colours that you surround yourself with are absolutely going to change the mood and feel of a space, and will either hinder or support the activity that you are doing in there.'

#### **CHOOSE YOUR MOOD**

'Consider whether you want to create a calming, relaxing and restorative space, or a cosy, homely and comforting room to hibernate in,' says Melanie. 'Think about the colours around you that make you feel happiest, whether that be a spring-inspired theme with a fresh, clean uplifting palette, or a more autumnal rich and cosy feel.'

Sophie agrees: 'A little colour understanding goes a long way, but it does take some work to figure out what colours resonate with you – someone's happy yellow might be someone else's migraine. I often tell >



# **66** Lighter **SHADES** in smaller rooms can often feel cold; I prefer to use darker **COCONING** colours **99**

KATHRYN LLOYD, COLOUR SPECIALIST, CROWN PAINTS



people not to look at paint charts or fabric swatches first, because then the "doing" part of our brains is driving the choice. Instead, drop into the feeling and discover how different colours effect you.'

#### THE MAGIC OF MOOD BOARDS

All three of our experts believe creating a mood board is invaluable – a physical one for that all important 'real' aspect. 'It allows you to really experiment,' says Sophie, who has recently launched new collections with DFS and Harlequin. 'Ask yourself: "Is this creating the joyful, uplifting space or that calm, restorative room I have in mind?". Think about what you're pulling together, and how it makes you feel. I do use digital boards for speed and efficiency, but I'm always cautious as they are so fast that you don't lean into the creative process.' Melanie agrees: 'Digital mood boards are great for lots of quick ideas and sourcing products, but you can't beat a physical one.'

#### **FEELING INSPIRED**

'I take inspiration from everywhere,' says Kathryn, which Melanie and Sophie agree with enthusiastically. 'From attending design shows to the latest in fashion. I often look to nature too,' she continues, 'as I am >





# 66 As blue is such a CALMING colour, use bolder accent colours on ACCESSORIES to catch the eye 99

MELANIE ARCHER, COLOUR EXPERT, JOHN LEWIS & PARTNERS

fortunate to live close to an area of rugged moorland.' Melanie always has her eyes open, too, taking photos and using them for mood boards. 'On holiday, much to my family's amusement, I'm constantly taking pictures of inspiring colour combinations, especially in the Mediterranean... a house with a door with peeling blue paint against a terracotta wall.'

#### FINDING THAT BALANCE

'For me, the no-no is a 50/50 per cent colour split – it never works,' says Sophie. 'Why not try a 95/5 per cent split, such as with a piped edge in a contrasting colour on upholstery? It's important to understand that the proportion of colour used will completely change the vibe though.'

Melanie adds, 'A trick designers use is the 60–30–10 rule to achieve balanced schemes. You choose your main anchor colour, the backdrop to your scheme, then the secondary tone on your upholstery and lastly the accent colour – usually on a lamp base,

throw or cushion.' Sophie adds: 'I'm someone who likes energetic spaces, so I have a lot going on. But the opposite is to colour-drench, painting everything in one colour, which can make it far less hard on the eye and more relaxing.' Kathryn explains: 'Tonal colour schemes combine the light and dark tones of a particular colour and can be used to create a variety of effects, depending on the shades used.'

#### THE IMPORTANCE OF LIGHT

'Whether natural or artificial, lighting has an enormous impact on the colour of your room,' says Melanie. 'As does the direction it faces. Always buy tester paint pots to try out the colour in various parts of the room and at different times of the day.' Sophie adds: 'It's also really important to think about when you use the room. If it's in the morning, such as for breakfast or work, then you only really need to assess it then. And if it's used at night – say a snug – then it can look dull in the day, but warm and cosy at night.'



FEATURE JENNIFER MORGAN PHOTOGRAPHS FUTURECONTENTHUB.COM/CAROLYN BARBER, JON DAY



# Apple green

THIS MONTH, OUR COLOUR EXPERTS PRESENT THIS BOLD AND LIVELY BOTANICAL SHADE



# What the experts say...

#### Designers and stylists share their views

'Lively and invigorating, apple green instantly revitalises and brings a sense of youthfulness to a room. It enhances the brightness and harmonises well with neutral tones (particularly those with a red undertone) for a nature-inspired feel.'

**ANNA HILL**, BRAND DIRECTOR & COLOUR CONSULTANT, FENWICK & TILBROOK

'Thanks to its fresh, clean hue, apple green is popular in bathrooms and bedrooms, and can be tempered with beiges, whites or greys. This earthy palette will create a calm feeling, providing a fantastic backdrop for most styles of furniture.'

**SOPHIE SMITH.** FOUNDER, 7HOOSH PAINTS

'Apple green infuses your home with tranquility and soothing elegance that can complement any space beautifully. Its versatility allows it to be paired with various design elements, from rustic wooden furniture to modern minimalist accents.'

#### BAILEY OATES, COLOUR EXPERT, EARTHBORN

This bright green instantly delivers a dose of uplifting energy and dynamism into a space. It has comforting yellow undertones which pair wonderfully with blue shades - next to green on the colour wheel - for a refreshing combination.'

HELEN SHAW, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL MARKETING, BENJAMIN MOORE

A perfect accent colour, this shade layered in an existing scheme will immediately refresh it. Apply to table legs, lamp bases, picture frames or small pieces of furniture for some zing. I love pairing it with an orange to really contrast and excite.'

#### ANNIE SLOAN, PAINT AND COLOUR EXPERT

'Being the colour that represents nature, green makes us feel positive. It can be used in many different spaces, from kitchens to living rooms.'

FRANCESCA WEZEL, FOUNDER AND PAINT COLOUR EXPERT. FRANCESCA'S PAINTS



66 This shade of green is FRESH, energising and JOYFUL. I use it in GARDEN rooms where it reflects the LUSH colours outside 99

ANNIE SLOAN, PAINT AND COLOUR EXPERT

## the edit APPLE GREEN



## BEST FOR PAINTING FURNITURE

Antibes Green chalk paint, £26.95 for 1ltr, Annie Sloan



## BEST FOR A SUBTLE RESULT

Silky Green premium interior matt emulsion, £37 for 2.5ltr, Valspar



## BEST FOR A STATEMENT

Green Apple perfect matt emulsion, £59 for 2.5ltr, Designers Guild



## BEST FOR A MODERN LOOK

Phthalo Green matt emulsion, £57.50 for 2.5ltr, Little Greene



## BEST FOR A BATHROOM

Grasshopper claypaint, £57.50 for 2.5ltr, Earthborn

NEED HELP WITH YOUR ROOM? JOIN OUR FACEBOOK GROUP, THE IDEAL HOME ROOM CLINIC

### TREND TALK

# 66 Try a pop of red for an instant pick-me-up ??

BIG TRENDS ARE FEW THESE DAYS WITH MICRO TRENDS TAKING THEIR PLACE. WE EXPLORE THE LATEST: THE UNEXPECTED RED THEORY...

Craving a micro trend that's a cinch to adopt? Then say 'hello' to The Unexpected Red Theory. Doing exactly what it says on its metaphorical tin, adding a pop of red to an otherwise crimson-free interiors scheme is an instant way to give your space a visual uplift. It can be as easy to do as swapping in a cherry red lampshade to your space, painting the dado rail in a fiery scarlet shade or filling a vase with bright-red flowers, but that little extra touch can be transformative. The interiors equivalent of putting red lipstick onto a barely made up face, it works well in pretty much any space, particularly neutral schemes or those decorated in primary colours.

Perfect for many of you colour-conscious decorators out there, the point of the unexpected red theory trend is that you can enjoy it without going over the top. It's all about adding colour in unusual places, so work with the space you have. Tall ceilings? Use the height of the room to your advantage with a flash of red in a pendant light. Narrow, long space? Add a long stripe of red to make an impact.

'I love using pops of red in a room design,' says interior designer Laura Stephens. 'It can feel a bit much for some people to paint a whole room red, but these touches really help to add interest and ground a scheme,' she explains. 'I have used red to highlight interior architectural features, such as the architraves, where it separates the room perfectly.'



## THE IDEAL HOME VIEW ON... THE UNEXPECTED RED THEORY

Do we think this micro trend is here to stay? Digital news writer Sara Hesikova weighs in...

'While the unexpected red theory is going viral as a trend, it's not necessarily all that new. Using a pop of bold colour to energise a room and make it look more considered and elevated is a technique that interiors stylists have been using for decades, but it's only now catching on with the wider public. And

it's precisely for this reason that I think it's a timeless and versatile method that will never go out of style. You can always brighten up a room with something like a red lamp, a cushion or a picture frame. And if you ever get sick of red, switch to using another vibrant primary colour for a similar effect.'

## PERFECT PALETTES

#### LET CROWN BE YOUR GUIDE TO A NEW LOOK FOR YOUR HOME

rown believes that every pot of paint is filled with potential, the promise of a new and unique look that anyone can easily achieve. From painting a whole room in a rich new hue or adding a bold stripe of colour to a wall for an unexpected break from the norm, welcoming a new look into your home to brighten up your day is incredibly easy (and cost effective) to do.

#### EXPERT SELECTION

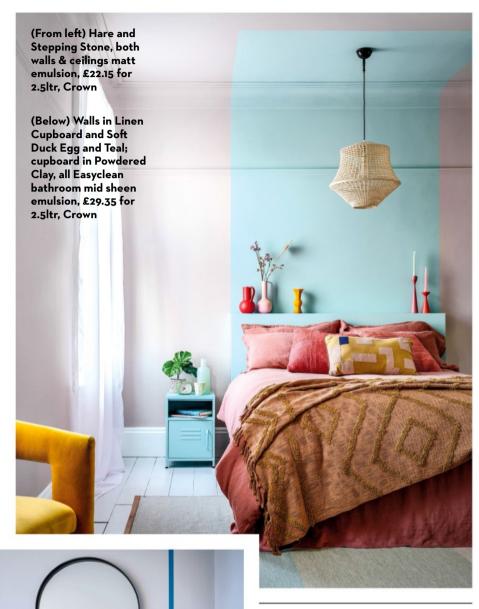
Each year, Crown's expert panel of colour specialists and interior designers analyses and reviews the latest global trends spanning lifestyle, culture, fashion, architecture, social and the environment. The result of this extensive research is Crown's Colour Insights - the brand's outlook on the future of colour and its use in both homes and businesses. In a world where fast fashion trends tend to dominate, Crown's perspective on colour focuses on shades that will stand the test of time, while choosing combinations that are joyful, uplifting and fun. The Escape palette for example (shown in the main image), has a retro and quirky feel, inspired by colours from old holiday photographs, keepsakes and vintage movie sets.

#### EASY DOES IT

As well as highlighting specific colours for their longevity and cultural relevance, Crown's Colour Insights provide readymade colour schemes that can be easily adapted into your home. Each palette has a range of shades that work together beautifully and are divided up proportionally so you know how much (or how little) of a colour to use.

#### TRY IT OUT

Want to see the colours in situ before committing to a room revamp? Crown's tester pots and Real Paint Swatches (paper samples coated in real paint) are perfect for helping you visualise the colours in your home, so you can decide on the ideal scheme.



#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more on Crown's Colour Insights, visit crownpaints.co.uk and head to your nearest Crown Decorating Centre, Homebase, Wickes or leading independent retailer to find Crown's extensive range of paints.









#### 1. UPSCALE FURNITURE

Your conservatory may not be the size of a hotel's but you can still get the look, with stylish furniture that gives the room flair. Wicker, cane and rattan are good, durable choices that work well under the sun's glare in summer and all year round. Choose chairs with cushions as you'll want something comfortable to relax in for hours.

Harrington dining chairs, £410 each, Neptune

#### 2. WINDOW TREATMENTS

Conservatories can suffer from intense sunlight in summer and draughts in the colder months, which is why a good window treatment is so important. Opt for blinds designed to block out light and reduce heat loss when needed, and that come with electric and smart options so you can adjust them at the touch of a button.

Soho Bouclé Forest Roman blind, from £93, Hillarys

#### 3. DURABLE FLOORING

As with any room, your conservatory deserves to have a floor that's attractive and comfortable underfoot, but it will also need to be resistant to temperature changes, direct sunlight and moisture. Laminate, vinyl and engineered wood are resilient options, while a large rug can help to cosy up the big glazed space.

Sisool Masai Soft Grey rug with cotton herringbone border in Aluminium, £163sq m, Crucial Trading





#### 4. EFFICIENT LIGHTING

Glazed walls limit where you can place lights, but lighting is essential for enjoying your conservatory once the sun goes down. Make use of a pitched roof by hanging a chandelier or pendant high up out of the way, and add floor and table lamps. If you have a solid wall, wall fittings can help diffuse light throughout the space.

For a similar green lamp, try Tony desk lamp in Lichen, £25, John Lewis & Partners

#### 5. HOUSEPLANTS

Turn your conservatory into a lush leafy retreat with lots of plants to blur the lines between indoors and out. Make sure the plants are tough, as temperatures can vary from day to night. Go for contrasting leaf shapes and sizes, with a few oversized tropical-look plants such as palms, and group them together for best effect.

Try Dobbies for similar pots and a range of houseplants

#### 6. SOFT FURNISHINGS

To truly give your conservatory a big dose of hotel style, you need plush soft furnishings. Mix textured rugs, chunky throws and cushions in various materials, colours and patterns to create a soft, inviting scheme that's a pleasure to spend time in and enjoy the views outside.

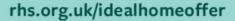
Buckingham medium left-hand chaise corner sofa set, £5,499, Bridgman





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The Interior Experts







Invest in portable solar lamps for your garden.
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PANEL YOUR
BATH SIDE

Your bath panel
need not be plain white
this one has been tiled
to match the walls with a
design that replicates the
natural beauty of wood,
creating a spa-like feel.





# HOW TO MAKE CITRONELLA LANTERNS

Enjoying balmy evenings in the garden is what summer is all about, so keep pesky insects away with easy-to-make candle lanterns.

■ Dining outdoors is a treat, but having mosquitoes join you around the table definitely is not, which is why these citronella lanterns are ideal as mozzies hate the smell. Simply take a glass jar and tie copper wire around the top to form a handle. Glue a strip of ribbon or fabric around it to cover any joins.

- Half-fill the jars with water and drop in some fresh lemon peel, along with a fresh rosemary sprig, which will help to keep the water clear.
- Add a couple of drops of citronella essential oil and give the water a gentle stir, then place an unscented floating candle on top.
- Shake in a few more drops of citronella oil. When ready to use, just light the candle to help keep your outdoor space mosquito-free.

### **BRIGHTEN UP POTS**

Colour in the garden doesn't have to come just from the plants - paint pots and planters in a range of summery hues for a fresh update. Wide dish-style planters like these are ideal for small gardenscape displays.



For a similar **yellow paint**, try Mister David intelligent eggshell, £39 for 1ltr, Little Greene



## REFRESH A FRONT DOOR

Change the colour of your front door and give the entrance to your home a whole new look. If it's uPVC you'll need to use a specialist primer on it first, but with thousands of shades to choose from you'll be spoilt for choice - and you could match it to the walls, a piece of furniture or a coat stand for a coordinated finish.

Summer is the perfect time to air your curtains. Give them a good shake to remove any dust then lay them outside in the sun for a while. Rehang and finish with a spritz of fabric freshener spray.





# HOW TO MAKE A TOWEL RACK

This will bring a touch of Scandi style to your bathroom and it's easy to adapt its width and length to suit your space.

- Start by getting four pieces of wood of the same length to use as the rails. Drill a hole at each end of the wood pieces, making sure the holes are in the same place on all the pieces.
- Apply waterproof liquid sealant to the wood pieces to form a protective barrier against water and moisture.
- Cut two lengths of rope to the

length you'd like your towel rack to be, plus a bit extra to allow for the knots. Knot each length of rope at what will be the bottom rail of the rack.

- Thread the ropes through the holes in one piece of wood, resting it against the knots, then knot again at the point where you want the second rail to be.
- When all the wood pieces are hung on equally spaced knots, tie the top ends of the rope together. Cut any excess rope at the top and hang the rack.

With the garden furniture and barbecue outside, it's a great time to tidy your garage or shed, wash its windows and give the floor and walls a good sweep.

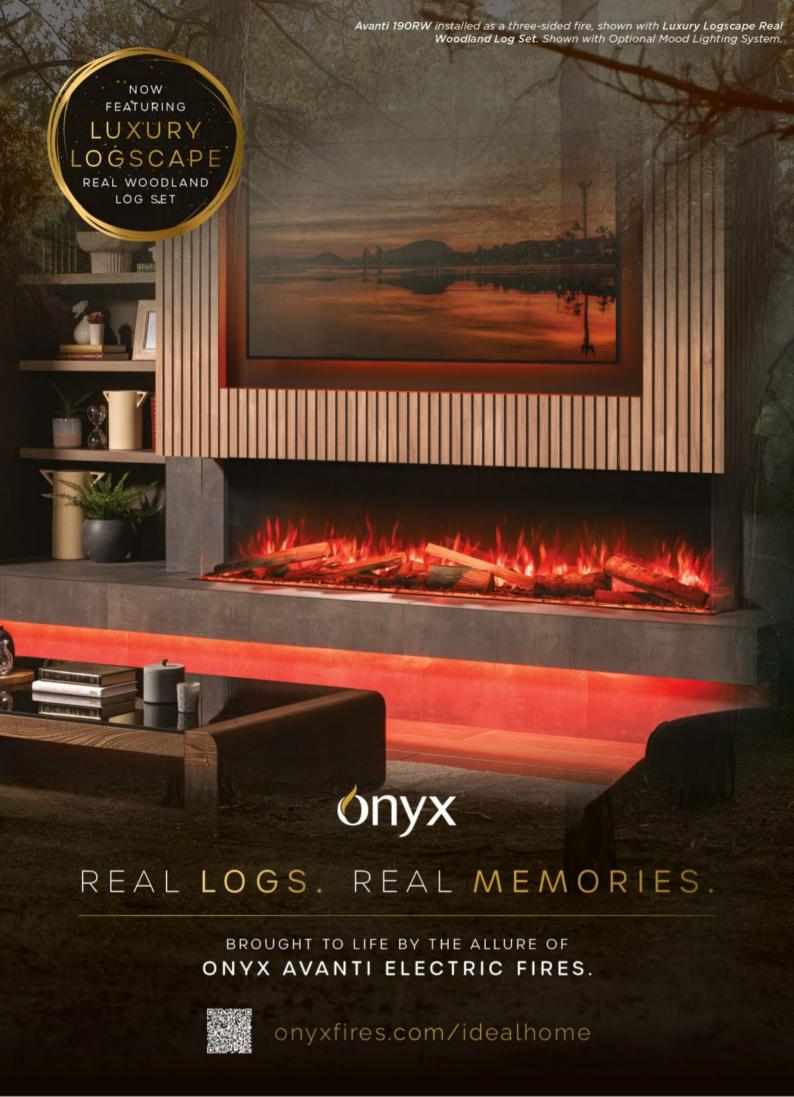
### ADD FRAMES WITH FAUX WALL PANELS

You can create the panelling effect below by fixing classic wooden moulding to the wall then painting it in a matching shade. Finish by hanging artwork within the frames.





FEATURE LAURIE DAVIDSON PHOTOGRAPHS FUTURECONTENTHUB.COM/CRAIG WALL, JO HENDERSON, DAVID GILES



## IDEAL S GREAT DEAL

Set up a happy hub with soothing tones for a modern country kitchen









ith summer on the horizon, there's no time like the present to get some dates in the diary and invite friends and family over for a get-together. Whether you have a posh sit-down dinner in mind or a relaxed barbecue in the garden, you'll need a little assistance when it comes to getting organised. Luckily, help is a mere voice command away when you're set up with a smart speaker, such as Google Nest. Working effortlessly in tandem with EE Smart Hub Plus, smart speakers and displays like those from Google feature multiple features that take all the hassle out of party planning, making hosting at home a breeze.

#### SAVE THE DATE

Making diary dates is easy when using a smart speaker. Just by using the voice command, you can check existing appointments or plan new ones, set reminders and send diary invitations to your guests. You can even set recurring events if you want to make your social gathering a regular thing.

#### SHOP SMART

**GINEVRA BENEDETTI, DEPUTY EDITOR** 

If you're undecided on what to serve, why not find inspiration online? With a smart display, you can make a digital shopping list via voice command and stream recipe videos as you cook.

#### SET THE SCENE

Got a Spotify account? Ask your smart speaker to play party music of your choice. And if you have smart lighting, you can adjust it by voice command for the perfect atmosphere.

#### VIRTUAL VISITORS

And for those who can't make it, why not catch up via video call? With EE Smart Hub Plus, you're guaranteed a strong internet connection, so calls won't drop out mid-chat.



#### MORE INFORMATION

Visit ee.co.uk/home to discover how smart tech can help you live a more organised life.







# Introducing the Soho External Door



The new Soho External Door epitomises luxury, seamlessly merging a steel-look design with unparalleled thermal performance. Redefining the standards of elegance, the Soho Bi-fold and French Door system ensures your home will have it all - expansive glass panels for an abundance of light, elite levels of security and remarkable aesthetics.



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lanning to leave the Big Smoke behind, Claudia and Andrew began their quest for a property outside London that was close to a good school. 'We didn't want the kids growing up in the city, so we

started looking at potential areas in 2020,' says Claudia.'We visited 25 different places, but it was only when we stumbled across a great school in Farnham, Surrey, that our minds were made up.

We spotted a listing for a pub in the middle of town. It had been empty for a while, was a warren of corridors and poky spaces, and a huge project, but Andrew could see its potential.' With a lack of options they took the plunge, buying it in May 2022, and started work straight away.

#### THE RENO BEGINS

'We enlisted a good building team and rented a nearby property in July 2022,' says Claudia. However, they soon hit a stumbling block. 'It became apparent that the roof timbers were rotten, so we had to put up tin-hat scaffolding and rip off the entire roof – it was like looking down into a doll's house!'

#### **MAKING ALTERATIONS**

The couple's plans for the property meant that nearly everything changed internally. 'The idea of keeping original features is romantic but not always practical,' says Claudia, 'and sadly there wasn't much character left.' The couple removed the ugly stone-clad fireplace on the ground floor to create a large family area, while the barn at the

side of the property also needed addressing. 'You could see daylight through the walls,' Claudia continues. 'We gutted it, tanked the walls, plus reinstated timber sash windows.' The barn is now a two-storey, two-bedroom annex connected to the main house, with an office downstairs.

#### **UPS AND DOWNS**

'The young

child in me that

**GREW** up in a

terraced house

often has

**PINCH-ME** 

moments that

we LIVE here'

'By November, despite all the work that had been done, it still felt like a building site and I couldn't

imagine living here or how it could ever be a home,' says Claudia. 'Time seemed to stand still, but when the tiler came in, there was light at the end of the tunnel. And seeing the flooring go down in the main living area was a real turning point. The kitchen being installed was also a massive highlight.'

#### **REAPING THE REWARDS**

In May 2023, a year after buying the pub, the family finally moved in. 'It's amazing how much space there is,' says Claudia. In the former cellar there is a cinema room, gym and sauna. 'And even though the house is on a main road it feels like a sanctuary,' she continues.

'It's exciting that it's at the beginning of its journey as a family home after life as a pub for years.'

Even now Claudia is thinking of redecorating the upstairs landing. 'The house feels like an ongoing creative process – in a good way,' she says. 'Our home is always evolving; it's a contemporary house with a period jacket on and fulfils our need for modern family living in a characterful setting. We still pinch ourselves that we're here.'









Because of the windows, wall **UNITS** were a no-no, so we included **PLENTY** of storage in the **ISLAND** 





#### THE BUILD IN **PICTURES**

Work started in May 2022. Needing a new roof extended the project by three months, to May 2023



With the roof gone and the internal walls removed, timbers mark out positions of the landing and rooms on the first floor.



Tin-hat scaffolding was essential to protect the property from the weather and ensure the project stayed on track.



To gain more ceiling height, floors and ceilings were removed and repositioned, and space was absorbed from the loft.



The builders rebuilt the three roof valleys at the back of the house to match the design of the original structure.



#### Hallway

'The old pub door led straight into the new open-plan space, so we moved our entrance to the side. This area also leads through to the annex on the ground floor.'

#### **BUY THE KEY PIECES**

Walls in Fox Red estate emulsion, £54.50 for £2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Darica rug, £1,495, Oka. Trio Stripe cushion, £35, John Lewis & Partners

#### Dining area

'I chose warm California vibes for the spacious heart of the house, with a storage unit in standout yellow, patterned blinds and a large print for vibrant colour.'

#### **BUY THE KEY PIECES**

Blinds in Sarouk by Linwood, Clare Laughland Interiors. Dulwich table, £2,935, Case Furniture. Pembridge chair, £550, Soho Home

## THE BUILD IN PICTURES



As there weren't many old features left, MDF panelling was added to the snug. 'The effect is fantastic,' says Claudia.



'Kitchen installation day was beyond exciting!' says Claudia. The cabinetry was then hand-painted on site.



CREATE ZONES
A freestanding unit
makes a striking and
practical division in
this open-plan space

The new roof tiles, in a mix of Welsh slate and red clay, were chosen to match the style of the original.



#### **FOCUS ON...**

# CONVERTING A COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Claudia and Andrew took on a huge project when they bought the former public house, and a lot of paperwork, too

#### **DISCOVER ITS CLASS**

All buildings fall under a 'Use Class', such as Class B, which is for general industrial use, and Class E, which includes shops, offices and restaurants, with residential homes classed as C3. You'll need to find out which 'Use Class' your commercial building falls under - some you'll need planning permission for, while others may fall under permitted development. Find out more at planningportal.co.uk.

#### **SEEK EXPERT ADVICE**

Before you set your heart on a conversion project, it's worthwhile asking an architect to undertake a feasibility study on the property. They can find out what permissions you'll need and help you understand what the opportunities and restraints of the site will be.

#### **BE PREPARED FOR ADMIN**

'There is a lot of paperwork involved when taking over a commercial property,' says Claudia. 'For example, you are subject to business rates (as opposed to council tax) and you must apply to the government to change the rateable value of your property to remove your business rates liability. It can be a long and frustrating process. Equally, if the previous owner had a business with debts, you may find yourself opening bailiff letters, and receiving demands from utility companies chasing large amounts of money.'





#### Main en suite

'We chose a warm neutral shade for the vanity unit and, with smart black floor tiles and monochrome wall lights, the resulting look has an elegant Art Deco vibe.'

#### **BUY THE KEY PIECES**

Walls in Rolling Fog Pale absolute matt emulsion, £57.50 for 2.5ltr, Little Greene. Bejmat floor tiles in Black, £176sq m; Skinny Metro tiles in Rolling Fog, £96sq m, both Bert & May. Picasso bath, £1,397, Lusso Stone. Bagno Design M-Line three-hole basin mixer in Brushed Nickel, £549, Victorian Plumbing

#### **Guest bedroom**

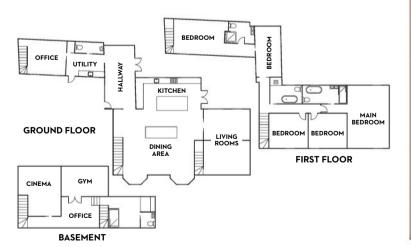
'This bedroom, one of two upstairs in the annex, never fails to raise a smile. It's unashamedly pink in every way! We created pitched ceilings in most of the rooms on the first floor for much-needed head height.'

#### **BUY THE KEY PIECES**

For wall colour, try Factor Fifty flat matt, £52 for 2.5ltr, Coat. Costellini ottoman, £275; Dera prints, £425 set of 12, both Oka. Lytton side table, £495, Soho Home. Try Guilia Modern metal double bed frame in Black, £239, Very. Large artwork, price on request, Margo in Margate

# THE LAYOUT

The internal walls of the former pub were removed and the layout reconfigured, with the main entrance moved to the side. The basement houses the gym, cinema room and an office, while the ground floor is open-plan with a large kitchen-dining space, and two linked living rooms. On the first floor is the main en-suite bedroom, plus four further bedrooms (two in the annex) and a family bathroom.











The CHALLENGE
of a new build
was to fill a
MODERN space
with character and
interest; it WORKS
because I used
treasured objects
that REFLECTED
us as a family

66





#### **HOME NOTES**

#### WHO LIVES HERE?

Molly Mills, a part-time teacher and interior designer, lives here with husband James, an editor, their three children, Pia, 20, Freya, 16 and Henry, 10, and their cockapoo, Bear.

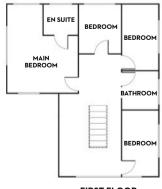
#### THE PROPERTY

A modern five-bedroom detached house in Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

#### THE LAYOUT

Enter this L-shaped house into the double-height hallway, which leads on to the guest en-suite bedroom (also used as a snug) and the downstairs cloakroom. At the back of the house is the living room and the open-plan kitchen-diner with utility area. Upstairs is the en-suite main bedroom, three other bedrooms and the family bathroom.





FIRST FLOOR

fter living in and renovating six period properties over the years, Molly and her husband James decided that they wanted a less disruptive, simpler way of life. Molly, whose mother is Danish, loves the simple

pared-back feel of Scandi-style interiors, and when a friend's modern new-build house came on the market, she could see the potential for recreating this feel here.

#### WHY DID YOU BUY THIS HOUSE?

'During previous renovations, there were times when the whole family had to sleep in one room while work was being carried out. We were living in a 19th-century coach house when we started to think about moving in 2019. The children were growing up and a large, easy-to-maintain, modern home became much more appealing. For me, the challenge was to be able to fill a contemporary space with character and interest.'

#### WHAT WORK HAVE YOU DONE?

'One of the first things I did was find a fantastic company that could make a cabin for James to use as his home office. We wanted one in the style of the fisherman's huts we pass by when walking on Dungeness Beach, with a sliding barn door and glazed windows. We placed it in the garden and laid a path to it. It also doubles as a den and sleepover space for the children. We all love it.

'Inside the house, there was no need for any major structural changes as it was only built in 2015. What was wonderful here was that the kitchen and heating system were new, and the house was so light, both things we weren't used to in our previous older properties.'

#### HOW DID YOU DECIDE ON YOUR INTERIORS STYLE?

'I wanted the journey through the house to be seamless, and the heritage colours I'd previously favoured just didn't work in this space. So I chose pastels in grevs and pinks downstairs and accentuated the colour scheme with stronger-coloured furniture and accessories. Upstairs, I used the same tonal shades but was a bit more daring, injecting personality with patterned wallpapers to create a statement wall in our main bedroom. This bolder style is reflected in the work I do as co-owner of interior design company Hagger and Mills (haggerandmills.com).'

#### WAS IT DIFFICULT TO ADD CHARACTER TO A MODERN HOME?

'I think what works well in a contemporary house is keeping the things that have meaning for you, special pieces of furniture or artwork that have been handed down through your family. The key is mixing these with modern favourites. It's been a fantastic experience to bring our new home to life. We love living here.







#### **FOCUS ON...**

## **COOL CABINS**

If you're inspired by architectural style of Molly and James's garden room, here's what you need to know

#### **COUNTING THE COST**

While it is possible to buy a garden room from around £4,000, you'll find that for a design that ticks the boxes when it comes to good quality, aesthetics and craftsmanship you will pay considerably more, between £15,000 and £50,000.

#### SELF BUILD VS FULLY INSTALLED

If you have the skills to build yourself, you might consider buying a flatpack kit to save on labour costs. But bear in mind that self-assembly is never an easy option, especially when you need groundworks, electricity and broadband internet.

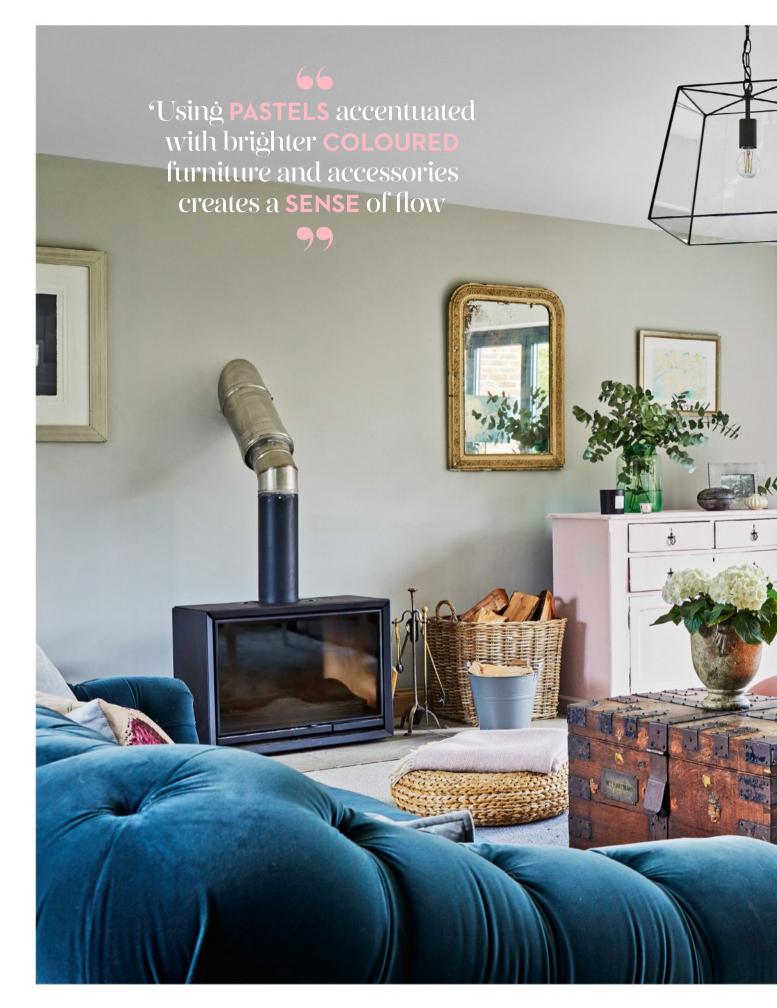
#### YEAR-ROUND USE

To be able to use your garden room in all seasons, it needs to be well-insulated, with good ventilation and, potentially, heating. Not all cabin designs include such luxuries, so make sure the one that you decide on will include everything you need for it to be comfortable.

#### WHAT ARE THE RULES?

You can use a small garden building as an office, workroom, gym or other incidental use. However, if you plan to use the building for sleeping accommodation, it will need both planning permission and building regulations approval.







#### Main bedroom

'I picked out the colours in the Art Deco-style wallpaper with pink and yellow cushions, while the chair, inherited from my grandmother, was recovered in a subtle greige fabric to link with the neutral scheme."

#### **BUY THE KEY PIECES**

Arcade 5304 wallpaper, £120 a roll, Farrow & Ball. For a similar bed, try Camille oatmeal fabric and oak bed frame, from £744, Happy Beds

#### Bedroom

'Freya's pretty vintage bed stands out against the contemporary star-design wallpaper, which has been used on both ceiling and walls for a cosy, cocooning effect.'

#### **BUY THE KEY PIECES**

All Star wallpaper in Candy, £126 a roll, Barneby Gates. Chill cushion, £49.50, Bombay Duck. Love neon sign, £80, Oliver Bonas. Try La Rochelle bed, £634.99, Homes Direct 365.















#### STYLE HOME



# **66 THERE'S BEAUTY IN**

# every

ABI ADIE HAS CREATED A COLOURFUL HOME THAT'S FULL OF BRAVE CHOICES, PLAYFUL DECORATING TECHNIQUES AND LOTS OF PERSONALITY





# "We wanted the open-plan area to be fun yet practical"

The design of this living space means that the playroom area needed to be kept tidy, so we asked our interior designer Terian Tilston to design a storage unit. It has pull-out desks and beautiful bobbin detailing, which is a recurring theme in the house.'

#### **BUY THE KEY PIECES**

Wiggle rug, from £1,650, Zandra Rhodes at Floor Story. Bespoke unit, price on request, The Good Joinery Co. Designed by Terian Tilston, teriantilston.com. Painted in Sky Blue intelligent eggshell, £80 for 2.5ltr, Little Greene

# "The kitchen was an upcycling proj<mark>ect</mark>"

'This was the first area that we tackled after we moved in. The previous owner had turned three rooms into this one large sociable kitchen-dining space. We thought that the existing units were very good quality and the limestone flooring lovely, but it was all a little too neutral for us. We wanted a scheme that was fun and lively so we painted walls, papered the main dining area, and spray-painted the cabinets and replaced handles. The soft blue-black of the wall colour creates the perfect contrasting backdrop.'

#### **BUY THE KEY PIECES**

For a similar colour to the cabinets, try Coral Flair paint mixing eggshell, £20.54 for 500ml, Dulux. Walls painted in Railings estate emulsion, £54.50 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Charcoal Grey cluster ceiling light, £369, House Of, would work here. Ercol Heritage solid-ash counter stools in Dead Matt, £295 each, Furniture Village

# "Use colour to create drama"

'We moved to this house in May 2021 to be near our family and had a party to celebrate once the kitchen-diner was complete. By being brave and choosing the most amazing shades for this large open-plan space, the results are very dramatic.'

#### **BUY THE KEY PIECES**

Window seat painted in Marine Blue intelligent eggshell, £80 for 2.5ltr, Little Greene. Try Oxford vintage wall light in Aston Blue, £49, Soho Lighting at Elesi. Tall wooden bobbin-turned plant stand, £145, Vantage Living, would work here













#### **GLAM FOCAL POINT**

The Gloria feather pendant light, £595, Coldharbour Lights



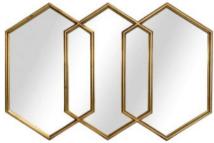
Emile-Alain Séguy print, from £13.50, Ink & Drop

FLUTED VESSEL
Art Deco vase in

Pink, £15.50, Funky Chunky Furniture

# STYLE MUST-HAVES

BE INSPIRED BY ABI'S HOME



#### **TOUCH OF LUXURY**

Art Deco-inspired wall mirror in Gold, £170, Click Style

# "Eclectic finds ensure character"

'The house was in good condition when we bought it, but the décor was not to our taste and we wanted to put our own stamp on it. We took our time and selected pieces from independant creatives, with nature and wildlife a common theme.'

#### **BUY THE KEY PIECES**

Walls painted in Brinjal estate emulsion, £54.50 for 2.5ltr; woodwork in Brinjal estate eggshell, £74 for 2.5ltr, both Farrow & Ball. Curtains in Lynx velvet in Navy, £72m, Emma J Shipley. Framed butterfly prints, price on request, Fran Giffard



By Me By The Sea

JUNE 2024  $\mathbf{97}$  IDEALHOME.CO.UK







#### **HOME NOTES**

#### WHO LIVES HERE?

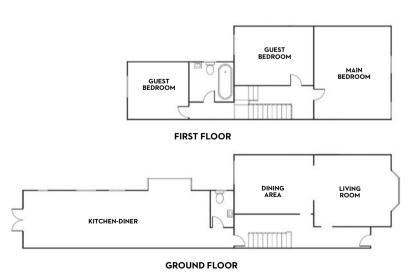
Leila Davidson, an HR advisor, lives here with her partner Joe Peddie, a civil and structural engineer, and their two cats, Zephyr and Laszlo.

#### THE PROPERTY

A three-bedroom Victorian terraced townhouse in Grimsby, Lincolnshire.

## THE LAYOUT

The ground floor is made up of two open-plan spaces: a living room at the front, with an opening through to the dining area, and a large kitchen-diner to the rear. A downstairs cloakroom sits in the middle of the layout. Upstairs, the main bedroom is at the front of the house, plus there are two guest bedrooms and the main bathroom.





fter years of renting together, Leila Davidson and Joe Peddie knew exactly what they wanted from their first home: space, character, and the opportunity to make the property their own. Because their previous two-bedroom rented house was

on the rural outskirts of Grimsby, they wanted to buy somewhere more central. And when they found the perfect house, they got straight to work.

#### WHY DID YOU BUY THIS HOUSE?

'We viewed a few properties, all within a mile of Grimsby town centre, and ended up falling for and buying the cheapest and most dated Victorian terraced house of all! Luckily, it had central heating and a new roof, along with bags of potential for us to make our mark on it.'

#### WHAT WORK HAVE YOU DONE?

'Having viewed other similar properties, we'd seen what could work with our own, so a few months after moving in, we started the renovations. We engaged builders to knock through the old dining room, tiny kitchen and utility room to create one long kitchen-diner at the rear of the house. They vaulted the ceiling and added skylights, and blocked up a window and side door to give us more scope for placing kitchen units and other pieces of furniture. Shortly afterwards, the same team knocked the front living room through to the second reception room, which became our more formal dining area.'

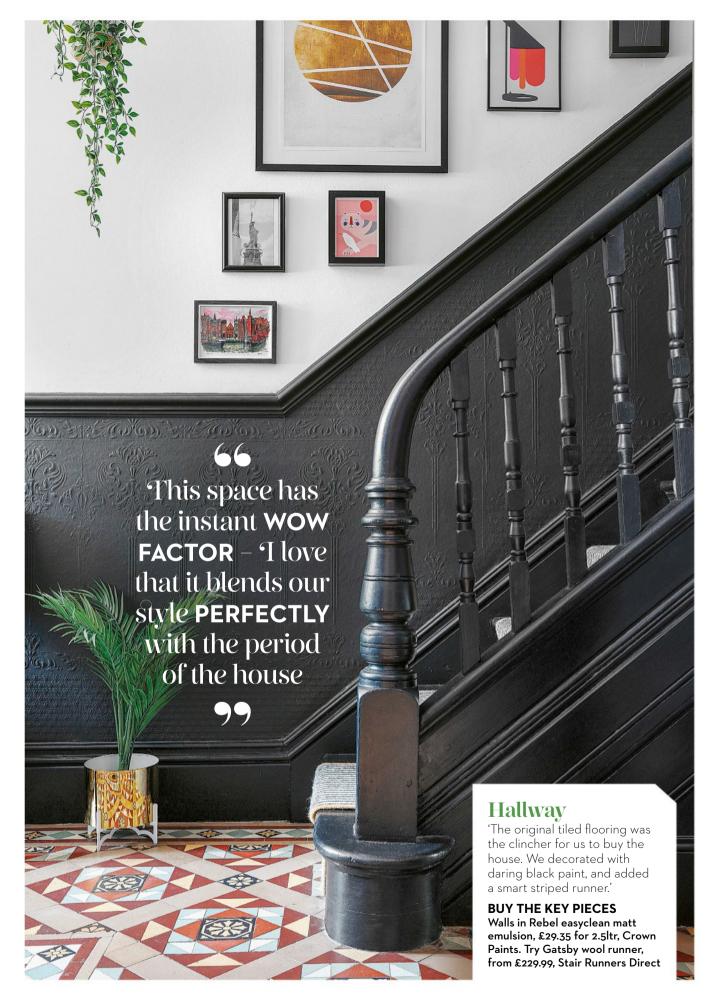
#### HOW DID YOU DECIDE ON THE DÉCOR?

'Over the years, we've honed our interiors style, and enjoy combining contemporary and traditional elements. We love period features so we wanted to restore as many as we could, while also making the house feel modern. The living room and main bedroom are just for myself and Joe to relax in, so we went for dark, cosy colours. However, the reconfigured kitchen-diner at the back of the house is

bright, colourful and fun – ideal for when we have friends and family round. We love making an impact, and I very much enjoy showing people my ideas and waiting for their reactions!'

# WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE?

'We've updated the garden recently and, next, I'd like to change the layout of our bedroom. I want to move the bed away from the chimney breast to reveal the original hearth tiles. It would be lovely to re-instate the fireplace, but we'd need to move a radiator when we move the bed, so it is a job for the future. However, we can't imagine moving for a very long time. We've put so much blood, sweat and tears into this property, and have created our dream home.'







# FOCUS ON... BOLD PAINT

If you want to get creative with colour like Leila and Joe, here's how to achieve the best results...

#### **CHOOSE WISELY**

Matt emulsion is best to use in high-traffic areas as it helps to hide any marks on the walls. But if you're concerned your colour could make a space too dark, opt for gloss, which has the highest shine.

#### COLOUR DRENCH

For the full dramatic effect, paint the walls, plus the skirting boards, picture rails, radiators and fireplaces, and even furniture. Just make sure you love the colour!

#### **TRY TWO TONES**

Strike a balance by painting the lower half of your wall in a dark shade, and the upper section in a neutral colour. Dado or picture rails help to create a natural dividing line.

#### PAINT A MURAL

Start with a coat of paint to create a blank canvas. Mark out your design in pencil, then with masking tape.

Apply paint with a small roller or brush. Allow each coat to dry before you reapply.

#### Kitchen-diner

'The original fireplace has been given a makeover with floor tiles and mustard paint to tie in with accent colours in this space.'

#### **BUY THE KEY PIECES**

Try Honey Mustard paint mixing matt, £36.49 for 2.5ltr, Dulux. For similar flooring, try Deluxe Golden Herringbone click vinyl, £36.99sq m, Luxury Flooring and Furnishings. Olivblad plant stand, £22, Ikea

#### Kitchen-diner

'Instead of having a tall shelving unit, I've created the look with an upcycled vintage sideboard beneath shelves painted the same colour. The gold-toned brackets tie in with the detailing that Ladded to the sideboard.'

#### **BUY THE KEY PIECES**

Try Bergshult shelves, from £15 each, Ikea. Try Gold scaffold brackets, from £10.20 a pair, Unique Metalcraft.
Nordlux Ellen lamp in Brass, £64.95, John Lewis & Partners, has this look







#### Main bedroom

'I bought this vintage sideboard to upcycle it, but it suited the space so well I left it as it was. The beautiful shade looks perfect on the vintage brass floor lamp base.'

#### **BUY THE KEY PIECES**

Snow Leopard silk lampshade, £135, Emma J Shipley. Try Vinterior for a mid-century sideboard, from £445. Solklint lamp, £17, Ikea. Try eBay for similar wicker peacock chair, £109

#### **Guest bedroom**

'For this space, we reinstated the picture rail and painted the ceiling and the chimney breast (below right) in a rich green shade. The striking graphic wallpaper links with the yellow-painted fireplace.'

#### **BUY THE KEY PIECES**

Wallpaper, Go Your Own Way in Mustard, £44 a roll, Lust Home. Haru sofa bed in Smooth Velvet Pink, £475, Made.com. Try Cordoba rug in Yellow, £150, French Connection.







FEATURE KAREN WILSON, CARRIE MITCHELL PHOTOGRAPHS KATIE LEE PLANS RICHARD HOOKWAY





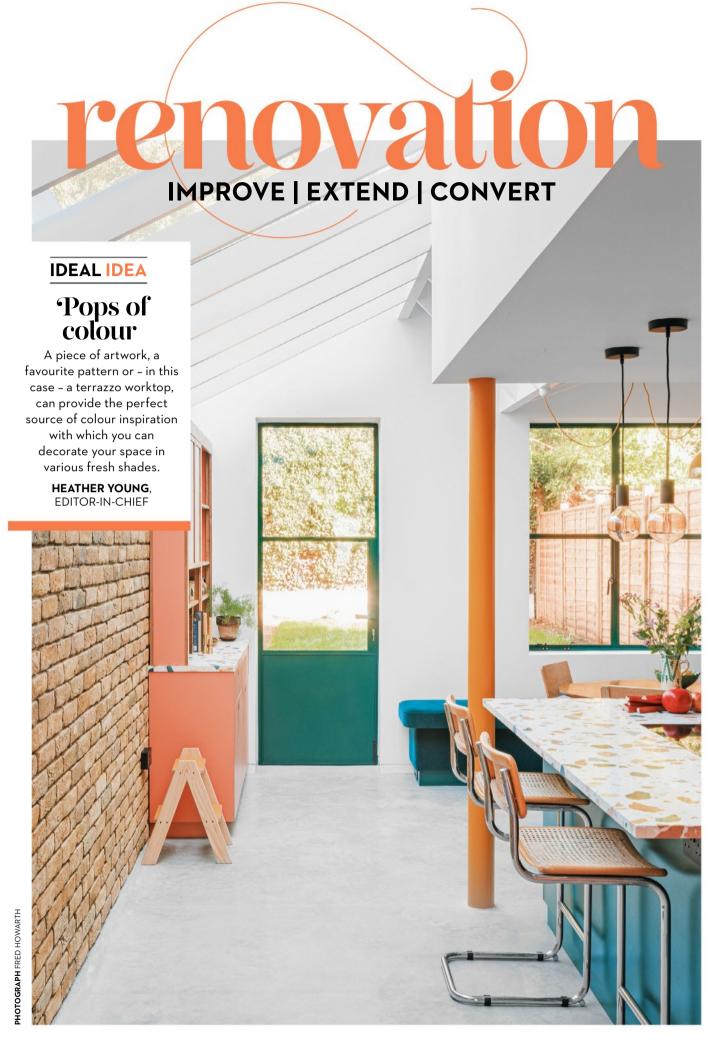


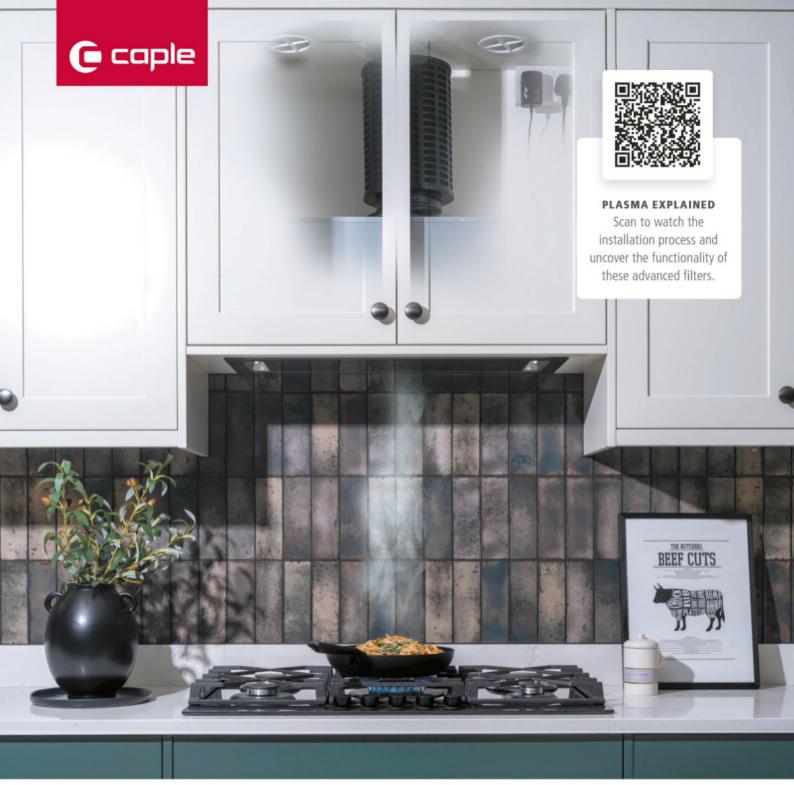
# FOR ALL





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## THE PROBLEM

The original kitchen was small and narrow, and the ceiling felt too low

## THE SOLUTION

'When planning our extension, we knew we wanted a bright kitchendiner space, with a yellow and green scheme. Our home is already colourful, but we want more! We started working with Pluck Kitchens on a design and

we loved its palette options, going with Market Mustard, Bonnington Green and Ritzy (pink), using them as inspiration for the rest of the space. We then chose matt black fixtures and lighting fittings for a clean and consistent feel. Our architects, Delve (delvearchitects.com),

suggested digging deeper down into the foundations to increase the ceiling height. We used exposed bricks, which match the originals on the house, along one wall to bring in contrast and texture. And we now have a dining area plus banquette seating - perfect for entertaining.'



## **FOCUS ON**

## UNDERSTANDING RAL COLOURS

For exact colour-matching in your kitchen project, use the RAL system. Here's the lowdown...

- Hannah and Ben wanted to pick out their cabinetry colours and match them with other elements. And for an accurate result, they used the colour-matching system RAL, which defines the standard colours for paints, powder coatings, varnishes and plastics.
- You might have heard of the similar ways to standardise colours, such as the RGB colour model, which is used in printing, or Pantone shades for fashion or product design. Before any of these were introduced, colour samples were exchanged and matched by eye. RAL was developed in Germany in
- 1927 and initially comprised 40 colours. Unlike the other colour systems, it can define matt, glossy and metallic surfaces. You'll see an RAL written as a code with a colour description, such as RAL 6000 Patina Green. The numbers represent the hue, lightness, saturation, gloss level and if the colour is solid or metallic. For example, the 'M' in RAL 210-M represents 'metallic'.
- To match RAL colours to your cabinetry in your own project, ask your kitchen manufacturer for the code and pass it on to your builder, the paint company or other manufacturers.

ABOVE 'For an extra splash of colour, our builders suggested painting the structural column, while the opening to the front of the house matches the angle of the skylights so that the spaces flow into each other.'

Kitchen in Market Mustard, Bonnington Green and Ritzy, from £20,000, Pluck. Lever wall lights in Matt Black, £39 each, Lights & Lamps RIGHT 'We chose a vibrant terrazzo for the worktops and splashbacks in a colourway to link with our theme. The open shelving was inspired by what we had in the original kitchen; it's a great place to display treasured ceramics.'

Terrazzo Marmoreal surfaces, price on request, Dzek. Browse Toast, Etsy and Nkuku for a selection of similar rustic ceramics



### RENOVATION



ABOVE 'The cocktail cabinet, made by Pluck, is our favourite part of the space. We chose London Plane wood.'

Try Rainbow champagne coupe glasses, £7 each, &Quirky at Trouva. Jahi brass candlestick, £25, Nkuku, would work here RIGHT 'The pink cupboard makes a stylish larder, with groceries stored close to hand when cooking.'

Pure induction hob, £2,800, Bora. Try Cesca-inspired rattan and chrome bar stool, £199, Where Saints Go

66 We chose a grey polished-concrete floor because we both like the clean industrial look against the other colourful elements in the scheme ??

HANNAH BENNETT, HOMEOWNER



## **KEY SURFACES**



**LEFT TO RIGHT Cabinetry** in Market Mustard; kitchens from £20,000, Pluck **Worktops and splashbacks** Terrazzo Marmoreal, price on request, Dzek **Island unit** in Bonnington Green; kitchens from £20,000, Pluck

## KITCHEN SOURCEBOOK

Bespoke kitchen, Pluck (pluck.co.uk). Worktops and splashbacks, Dzek (dzekdzekdzek.com). Hob, Bora (bora.com). Tap, Franke (franke.com). Lighting, Pooky (pooky.com); Tala (tala.co.uk); Lights & Lamps (lightsandlamps.com). Architect, Delve (delve architects.com). Bar stools, Where Saints Go (wheresaintsgo.co.uk). Ceramics, Toast (toa.st); Etsy (etsy.com); Nkuku (nkuku.com)



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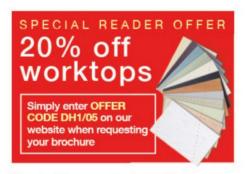




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66 Looks like a completely new kitchen - very pleased with the end result!" D Parnell





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## TILE STYLE

FROM TIMELESS CLASSICS TO MODERN MARVELS, PICK YOUR PERFECT BATHROOM FLOOR WITH HELP FROM VICTORIA PLUM

athroom floor tiles play a pivotal role in shaping the overall look and feel of your wash space for numerous reasons. Beyond their obvious practicality, these tiles serve as the foundation design element, setting the tone for the entire space. But with a vast array of styles and finishes to choose from, where do you start? We take a look at just some of the gorgeous ranges available at Victoria Plum for inspiration...

### STATEMENT FLOORS

Featuring unique and eye-catching designs, patterned floor tiles will make a great impact in both traditional and contemporary bathrooms. If you prefer something a little more subtle, the popularity of terrazzo tiles shows no sign of waning – their signature speckled stone appearance offers a delicate smattering of loose pattern and

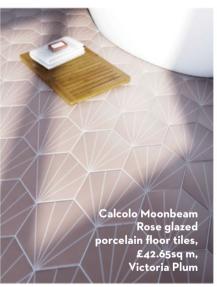
colour, perfect for adding interest to a bathroom without being overpowering.

### FAKING IT

For sheer opulence and luxury, you can't beat marble. If the real thing is out of your budget, the Calcolo Storm white marble-effect floor tiles are a great way to get the luxe look for less. Or, why not bring the outdoors inside with wood-look flooring? The Calcolo pine oak tiles can be laid like floorboards, without the risk of water damage.

## ELEVATE YOUR SPACE

Looking to take your bathroom to the next level? The Fuji glazed porcelain floor tiles combine the appeal of natural stone with the practical benefits of durable and low-maintenance porcelain, giving your bathroom a sophisticated and timeless look that you'll love for years to come.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Need help choosing the best tiles for your room? Visit Victoria Plum today to discover its extensive range of tile designs for both walls and floors, bathrooms, wet rooms, en suites, cloakrooms and more.

VictoriaPlum.com It's all about you





## THE PROBLEM

We needed our own bedroom retreat with a luxurious en suite

## THE SOLUTION

'The house was a complete wreck when we bought it, with a downstairs bathroom. Originally, we planned to convert the loft to add a family bathroom and guest bedroom, and then Covid hit. Living through lockdown with two children made us realise that we wanted a

separate retreat with our own bathroom. So, instead we decided to transform the loft into our main bedroom with a large en suite.

'I spent time planning and designing the space under permitted development, and engaged East London Lofts. In order to create a larger bathing space with a bath and shower, we put the bed under the eaves so we could use the full height of the dormer. I made templates and laid them out to ensure everything worked. I wanted plenty of greenery, so having the bath at an angle allowed us to include a massive banana plant in the corner behind it for a tropical vibe. Check out @homemade\_hannah for our journey.'



### ABOVE 'After a stay at The Newt in Somerset, we wanted to recreate the hotel bathroom mood, so installed strip lighting in niches and under the vanity, with uplighters behind the bath, plus a statement pendant.'

Mass Light pendant in Matt Black, £179.50, &Tradition at Nordic Nest. Flos Mini Glo-Ball wall light, £150, Heal's. Rena concrete basins in Blush, price on request, Kast RIGHT 'The arched shower screen continues the elegant theme, and we installed a shower tray that you can tile over to maintain the pattern of the flooring throughout.'

Arezzo arched-framed 8mm screen in Matt Black, £229.95, Victorian Plumbing. Arte 1 shower pack in Matt Black, £1,235, Arte Form. Marrakesh Zellige wall tiles in Moss Green, £88.20sq m, Bert & May

## FOCUS ON... BATHROOM LIGHTING

Get the basics right with your lighting choices for a successful scheme...

- Always check your lighting plan with your electrician and ensure you buy bathroom-specific IP-rated lights that are the correct rating for the zone you are fitting them in. This is usually IP44 or above.
- Dimmer switches are a great way to adjust the lighting according to different needs and moods. However, you should make sure that the dimmer fittings are suitable for bathroom use.
- Ensure the colour of your bulbs isn't too 'cold' as it can make the room feel clinical. The best colour temperature in a bathroom is anywhere between 2700K-3000K, which is a warm and welcoming light. Temperature ratings above 4,000K will appear cooler.
- Night lights on a sensor or separate circuit can be a real game changer when it comes to waking others with bright lights, particularly with an en-suite bathroom that has an open archway to the bedroom.
- Recessed LED fixtures installed in shower niches and under shelves or vanity units cast a gentle glow on walls, creating a soothing spa-like feel.





ABOVE 'Jon and I wanted to recreate that boutique spa-style vibe – investing in luxurious bathroom toiletries and candles make all the difference.'

Terrazzo Classic
M10-Black-KW wall tiles,
£92sq m, Mosaic Factory.
Try mango wood bath
bridge, £30; Tala glass
clip-top storage jars,
£15 for five, both Habitat

RIGHT 'As we'd splashed out on some high-end pieces, we had to save elsewhere. For the vanity, I added fluted panels to an Ikea unit and sourced marble for the top.'

Besta wall-mounted cabinet, £110, Ikea. Fluted panelling, from £61sq m, The Library Ladder Company. Marble, price on request, Diespeker

66 Really think about lighting – steer clear of spotlights as they create a harsh effect. I love our skylight above the shower; it floods the space with natural light 99

HANNAH THOMSON, HOMEOWNER



## KEY SURFACES



**LEFT TO RIGHT Vanity unit paint** Try Windmill Lane intelligent eggshell, £39 for 1ltr, Little Greene **Wall paint** Try Ammonite modern emulsion, £59 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball **Wall tiles** Marrakesh Bejmat Zellige wall tiles in Moss Green, £88.20sq m, Bert & May

## BATHROOM SOURCEBOOK

Bath, BC Designs (bcdesigns.co.uk). Basins, Kast (kastconcretebasins.com). Floor and wall tiles, Bert & May (bertandmay.com). Wall tiles, The Mosaic Factory (themosaicfactory.com). Shower, Arte Form (arteform.co.uk). Shower screen, Victorian Plumbing (victorianplumbing.co.uk). Panelling, The Ladder Library (Ilcompany.co.uk). Lighting, Nordic Nest (nordicnest.com).





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## IDEAL HOME'S ULTIMATE BATHROOM EDIT 2024

EVER WONDER WHAT BATHROOMS THE IH TEAM REALLY RATES? WE'VE CHOSEN OUR FAVOURITE DESIGNS, FROM TUBS TO TAPS AND SHOWERS TO SURFACES









**OUR JUDGING PANEL** 

HEATHER YOUNG EDITOR-IN-CHIEF GINEVRA BENEDETTI DEPUTY EDITOR HOLLY COCKBURN CONTENT EDITOR ALI LOVETT HOUSES EDITOR



## BATHROOM OF THE YEAR

## WINNER CLEARWATER INTERIORS

AW23 Bathroom Collection

'This luxe range delivers the ultimate spa-like experience at home, with eco cred and sustainability front and centre.'

**HEATHER YOUNG**, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



## **BEST CLASSIC BATHROOM RANGE**

**WINNER SYMPHONY** 

Amalfi Fitted Bathroom Range

'The matt finish on the surfaces gives the traditional Shaker–style design a modern twist.'

**HEATHER YOUNG. EDITOR-IN-CHIEF** 

**HIGHLY COMMENDED BUTLER & ROSE** 



## **BEST USE OF COLOUR**

**WINNER BAGNO DESIGN** 

Monroe countertop basin

'Available in eight shades, this elegant basin is ideal for adding a focal point in any bathroom. I love the metallic finish, too.'

ALI LOVETT. HOUSES EDITOR



## **BEST MODERN BATHROOM RANGE**

**WINNER** UTOPIA FURNITURE

**Qube Collection** 

'The designs are wall-hung to create a feeling of spaciousness, and the clever matt finish reduces fingerprint marks, too.'

GINEVRA BENEDETTI. DEPUTY EDITOR



## **BEST BATHROOM SURFACE**

**WINNER MULTIPANEL** 

The Tile Collection

"This ingenious panelling takes all of the faff out of achieving a super-stylish look,"

HOLLY COCKBURN, CONTENT EDITOR

HIGHLY COMMENDED CULLIFORDS CALACATTA
VIOLA MARBLE



## BEST BATHROOM TAP

**WINNER** PERRIN & ROWE

Armstrong Collection

'The choice of finishes available in this elegant and timeless collection means you can easily find a look to suit your style.'

HEATHER YOUNG

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF** 

HIGHLY COMMENDED BAGNO DESIGN; CROSSWATER FOLIE



## BEST BASIN WINNER BC DESIGNS

## Copper verdigris basin

'If you want to inject some personality and colour into what is normally a rather white, sterile space, you can't go wrong with this elegant basin. Copper is a huge trend for bathrooms right now and its natural patina is only going to get better with age.'

GINEVRA BENEDETTI, DEPUTY EDITOR

**HIGHLY COMMENDED** 

**RAK CERAMICS** 



## BEST SHOWERHEAD WINNER JTP

### Lumen

'Looking more like a spotlight than a traditional showerhead, this modern, eye-catching design is perfect for elevating your bathroom scheme. It gives a concentrated spa-like jet and comes in a choice of finishes, including Brushed Brass (shown here), Brushed Black and Brushed Bronze, making it a versatile choice.'

**ALI LOVETT**, HOUSES EDITOR



## BEST SHOWER ENCLOSURE

WINNER LAKES SHOWERING SPACES

## The Wave Collection

'Even though by their very nature, corner enclosures are tucked away to make the most of the space, the brass finish ensures this design stands out and feels luxe.'

HOLLY COCKBURN, CONTENT EDITOR

**HIGHLY COMMENDED** 

**CLEARWATER INTERIORS** 



## **RETAILER OF** THE YEAR

**WINNER** WICKES

'It can be really hard to know where to start when planning a bathroom revamp, but the free design consultation at Wickes will give you plenty of inspiration.

ALI LOVETT. HOUSES EDITOR HIGHLY COMMENDED **DRENCH** 



## **BEST BATHROOM TILES**

## **WINNER** CA'PIETRA

### Reform composite stone

'As well as being made from 60% recycled stone, this classic brick-style tile, in colours from Salmon Pink to Mint, is so versatile that you can lay it in any pattern to suit your bathroom design. The variation in tones creates real depth and interest. I've seen them in fashion brand Rixo's flagship store in London and they're beautiful in real life!'

**HEATHER YOUNG, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF** 



## **'ONE SMALL STEP' FOR** SUSTAINABILITY

## **WINNER NEAT**

## Daily shower cleaner

'I've been a fan of Neat's cleaning products since they were launched and I use this shower cleaner daily. The spray delivers a fine mist of deliciously scented solution that is easily replenished using the brand's dilutable refills in teeny glass bottles.'

GINEVRA BENEDETTI, DEPUTY EDITOR

**HIGHLY COMMENDED SURI** 



## **GENIUS INNOVATION**

## **WINNER TRITON SHOWERS**

### **ENVi Electric Shower**

'As a mum of teens, anything that can encourage them to think about our water usage is a winner in my eyes. We all share one shower at home, so having different user settings is another genius feature that is perfect for families.'

**HEATHER YOUNG, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF** 

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## INDULGE IN A LUXE NEW LOOK

## TAP INTO THE 'QUIET LUXE' TREND WITH HELP FROM LAYERED LOUNGE

\wo simple words – quiet luxe define a sophisticated, timeless trend that's grounded in neutral shades, sumptuously soft textiles, elegant shapes and high-end finishes. And one brand that embodies the look effortlessly is Layered Lounge. This month, it is offering all Ideal Home readers a super-generous 25% off all its full-priced products to help you bring this elegant trend into your home.

### **ENDURING CLASSICS**

Layered Lounge's latest ranges celebrate the freshness of neutrals blended with warm tones, all inspired by nature. Classic stripes, bold herringbone designs and rich basket weaves will add layers of luxurious texture to any living space, while the extensive collection of elegant tableware and glassware will elevate long lunches with family and friends in the sunshine. This summer will also see the launch of the brand's first bedlinen and sofa collections, too.

## **ARTISAN CRAFTSMANSHIP**

A family-run business, Lavered Lounge sources its pieces from suppliers around the world who work with experts and artisans in their fields. There's stoneware and ceramics from Portugal, baskets and rattan pieces from Vietnam and Myanmar and linen textiles from Lithuania - all timeless finds that will enhance your interiors for years to come.

## **HOW TO CLAIM** YOUR DISCOUNT

Enjoy 25% off all purchases at LayeredLounge.com between 1 May and 3 June 2024. Simply use

## **IDEALHOME25**

at the checkout.

LAYEREDLOUNGE

FEATURE GINEVRA BENEDETTI



## LIFE ADMIN

## NO-NONSENSE SOLUTIONS TO EVERYDAY HASSLES

## **CLEANING**

## Spruce up your kitchen in 15 mins

Start by loading the dishwasher. This will help you clear the clutter and make any surfaces easier to clean. Then wipe your surfaces down with warm soapy water, giving them a second clean using disinfectant spray. Next up is your sink. If it's made from stainless steel or porcelain, Bar Keepers Friend Stain Remover (£2.99 for 300g, Lakeland) works a treat. Otherwise, a mix of white vinegar and washing-up liquid is great for tackling any limescale build-up. Bins are next - empty them, give them a quick wipe down with more soapy water and disinfectant spray, then add new biodegradable liners where necessary. Wipe down your appliances next, starting with your hob and fridge door, as they're the most visible. Wash with a cloth and soapy water, and dry off to avoid water marks. Finally, clean your floor. For a speedy job, skip mopping in favour of vacuuming and spot-clean any obvious stains.

## ORGANISING Make yourself a freezer inventory

In order to get the most use out of your freezer, it's worth making up an inventory of what's inside and keeping it close at hand. List the contents according to where they're stored in each section, shelf or drawer so you know exactly what you have in each space. Label containers that go into the freezer with what's inside - to help save guesswork later on - and the date, and throw away anything that's past the extended freezer use-by date. For a list of these freezing time frames and more information on freezing food safely, visit safefood.net/food-storage/freezing.



## TECH

## Have a data storaģe spring clean

From smart phones, tablets and desktop computers, a regular clear out will speed up performance.

### START DELETING

Set aside some time to unearth old files, uninstall unused apps, bin duplicate images in your photo library, on texts and WhatsApp.

2

### **CLEAR YOUR CACHE**

In Google Chrome, click the three-dot menu in the upper right of the page, then choose 'Clear Browsing Data'. In Safari, from the Safari menu bar, scroll down and select 'Clear History' Choose how far back you want to clear.

3

### **BACK IT UP**

Anything else to be kept can be moved to cloud storage or backed up on a separate hard drive. Doing so will also ensure all your data is safe in case of theft or damage.

## **ENERGY SAVING**

## Save energy outdoors

These easy garden fixes will help you to use less energy

### **SWITCH TO SOLAR LIGHTING**

If you haven't already invested in smart outdoor lighting, it's worth making the switch to solar. According to Steve Buckley, head of data science at Loop (loop.homes), 'Two outdoor 60w lights left on overnight could add up to £63 to your yearly bill.'

### **USE YOUR PRESSURE WASHER SPARINGLY**

As well as getting through a lot of water, every hour's use of a pressure washer could cost you up to 55p. If you have anything outside that can be cleaned with a bucket and sponge, do it that way.

### ADD A WINDBREAK AROUND YOUR HOME

If your house is battered by cold wind in winter, you may spend more on heating. Consider investing in a hedge, fence or row of trees to shelter your home.

Do yourself a favour and book a boiler service now when engineer demand is low so it'll be done quickly

## HOME MAINTENANCE

## Fill a raised bed for free

Raised beds require lots of soil here's how to fill them on the cheap...

### **USE HOMEMADE COMPOST**

Making your own compost is easy and you can use it to feed (and fill) everything from the raised beds and garden borders to the vegetable patch.

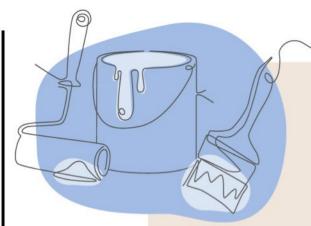
### **RECYCLE OLD NEWSPAPERS**

While it won't provide your plants with nutrients, damp newspaper works well as a filler, limiting how much soil you need to buy from the garden centre.

## TRY USING CARDBOARD

Lining a raised bed with shredded cardboard is a great way to fill up the space, while also preventing weed growth and too much moisture escaping.





## **PROPERTY**

## Can you decorate a rented home?

Just because you rent your house or flat, that doesn't necessarily mean that you can't pick up a paintbrush or put shelves on the wall. Start by reading your contract to see what changes are allowed. Most will state that you can't redecorate without your landlord's written permission. That said, if you do ask for consent, 'that permission must not be unreasonably withheld'. So if you did want to make minor alterations, such as putting up shelves, it would be viewed as a 'reasonable request', and your landlord's refusal would be seen as unreasonable. If your landlord does let you put up a shelf or hang a mirror, it's reasonable for them to ask you to remove the shelf and fill any holes you've made in the walls before you move out. If you don't, they can take money from your deposit to put things back to the way they were. You may find you can do more than you thought if you contact your landlord directly. They may be happy for you to paint, wallpaper or even lay new flooring if they agree it will improve the property. Just make sure you get that consent in writing, so you and your deposit are protected.



## New Season Launch 2025/26

Ambassador Cruise Line has just launched its new 2025-26 collection of no-fly sailings from eight regional UK ports. Plus, they're offering Buy One, Get One Free on saver fares. You can also save 25% on all premium drinks packages as part of the Ambassador Fare until Wednesday, 29 May. Whether you'd prefer to travel solo or with loved ones, Ambassador Cruise Line, guarantees exceptional service, outstanding cuisine, and worldclass entertainment, along with breath-taking destinations for unbeatable prices. Browse through the handpicked selection of cruises, each promising unforgettable journeys to some of the globe's most incredible ports of call. For a limited time only, we're offering a FREE mixed case of six premium Virgin Wines with all 2024-26 sailings until Wednesday, 29 May, Just book a cruise of five nights or more - it's that easy!

## Your cruise includes

- Comfortable, contemporary cabins and suites with a TV, hairdryer, tea and coffee making facilities, a fridge and air conditioning
- A wide choice of British and international cuisine every day
- · Plenty to do during the day, including playing bridge, practising your steps on the dancefloor and expert-led lectures to attend
- A full programme of evening entertainment, including cabaret shows, comedy, dancing and music
- · Full use of the ship's on-board leisure facilities
- All UK port taxes (where collectable
- Luggage porterage between your cabin and drop-off/pick-up point

Cruise	Departure date	Days	Ship	Port	First Passenger from	Second passenger	Ambassador Full Fare	Ambassador Fare
Hidden Gems of The Netherlands, Belgium, and the British Isles	28 Apr 25	9	Ambition	Belfast	£1,299	FREE	£1,699	£1,599
Marvels of France, Portugal, and Spain	13 Jun 25	17	Ambition	Bristol	£2,679	FREE	£3,478	£3,278
Normandy and the British Isles	20 Jul 25	12	Ambition	Dundee	£1,849	FREE	£2,398	£2,261
Iceland's Land of Ice and Fire	31 May 25	15	Ambition	Falmouth	£2,169	FREE	£2,868	£2,693
Wonders of Western Europe	15 Apr 25	12	Ambition	Liverpool	£1,869	FREE	£2,468	£2,319
Norwegian Fjord Expedition	06 Aug 25	9	Ambition	Newcastle	£1,399	FREE	£1,799	£1,699
Treasures of the Mediterranean	05 May 25	34	Ambience	Tilbury	£4,479	FREE	£5,963	£5,592
Jewels of the Caribbean Sea	30 Jan 26	41	Ambience	Tilbury	£4,949	FREE	£6,747	£6,298
Spain, Morocco, and the Canary Islands	04 Feb 26	16	Ambition	Tilbury	£2,149	FREE	£2,898	£2,711
Bremerhaven to Belgium Multi-Generational Adventure	27 Mar 26	8	Ambience	Tilbury	£1,169	FREE	£1,519	£1,431

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Buy One Get One Free offer is available on bookings made from 21 March—29 May 2024. Offer applies to the cruise fare only on sailings departing between 11 April 2025—22 March 2026, applicable on all twin grades. Solo travellers will get 50% off the applicable full single fare. First guest pays full Saver Fare and second guest, sharing the same cabin, is free. 25% off the drinks package applies to the top Expedition drinks package when the Ambassador Fare is purchased. "Free case of Virgin Wines offer applies to ocean cruise bookings made with Newmarket Holidays only for cruises of five-night length or greater for 2024—26 sailing. All offers are subject to availability and may be withdrawn at any time. Cruises are operated by Ambassador Cruise Lines. Holidays booked with Newmarket Holidays ABTOT 5509. ATOL protected 2325. ABTA V7812.













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## **TECH SOLUTIONS**

## **GARDEN TECH**

We reveal the clever gizmos and gadgets you can invest in to make your outdoor space an even more inviting place to be...

espite the many pros of having a garden, the maintenance involved to keep it in tip-top shape can be demanding, especially when you're trying to juggle everything else.

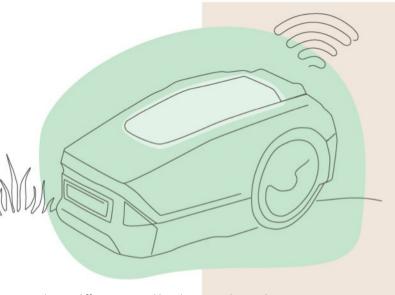
And despite being an 'additional room' in the summertime, gardens tend to lack the creature comforts that your actual home can offer. Well, it's not all that bad because thankfully, that's where tech can help. From robots and devices that take on the dreary repetitive gardening tasks to gadgets that create an atmosphere, tech companies realise that there's money to be made in making people's outdoor lives a lot more enjoyable.

### **HYDRATION STATIONS**

Smart irrigation systems can be controlled via a companion app on your smartphone or preprogrammed to water your plants or lawn on cue, with some models responding to voice control, too. Some devices, when linked to your Wi-Fi signal, will pinpoint the weather forecast in your local area and respond to it automatically, watering more if it's going to be extra sunny, or cancelling a scheduled sprinkling if rain is due.

## **ROBOT GARDENERS**

Much like robot vacuum cleaners, robot mowers will, on a schedule of your choice, make their way around your entire lawn trimming the grass and mulching the cuttings as they go. And once they're done, they'll quietly make their way back to their dock to charge up for their next round. And worth a mention, though exorbitantly priced, is the EEVE Willow. This cute eye-blinking robot will cut your grass, identify weeds and kill them using a bioherbicide, sweep your patio, and double as a security guard at night. It features Al capabilities, too, so it



can detect different items, like objects and animals, avoiding them as it makes its way around your garden.

### **SCENE SETTERS**

Once your plants and lawn are being looked after, the next thing to consider is your outdoor entertaining space. Smart lighting is one of the easiest ways to create a cosy atmosphere outdoors, whether you're outside with friends or family and need some subtle lighting or you want to enjoy the view of your garden at night. Smart lighting can be programmed to switch on automatically at planned times of the day, then dimmed later on, and eventually switched off at a set time. It can also be used to highlight certain areas of your garden, to brighten up walkways for safety, or just to add a little magic to your outdoor space.

Portable smart speakers that are extra durable and waterproof will add to that atmosphere, providing a soundtrack of your choice to your garden via one of the many music streaming platforms. Combining all these ideas will help to make your outdoor space much easier to look after and enjoy.

Some smart garden gadgets require access to an outdoor tap or plug – always check compatibility with your supply before ordering



## In-wash scent booster

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## \*\*\*\*

"I have so much confidence going out knowing I smell amazing."

Ilaina



"I buy them every week and use them in every wash."

Jo

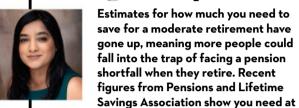


"Love love love these! The fragrance smells amazing and last for ages. Great to smell that freshness all day long." Katy

## **MONEY MATTERS**

## IDEAL HOME'S COLUMNIST AND DIGITAL EDITOR OF MONEYWEEK.COM KALPANA FITZPATRICK SHARES HER FINANCIAL WISDOM

## Plug the pensions gap



least £31,300 annual income for a moderate retirement or £43,000 as a couple. According to the Department for Work and Pensions, over 12 million people do not save enough. And while retirement may seem a long way away, doing all you can now to boost your pension is important. Our money expert, Kalpana Fitzpatrick, reveals how to do this.



If you are a woman, then the chances are you will retire with a pot smaller than that of a man. Men on average retire with pension savings of £205,000; women on average have £69,000 - that's £136,000 less.\* A woman would have to work an extra 19 years to rectify this. One of the biggest contributors to the pensions gap is the career break, which is on average 10 years.

### ADD TO A WORKPLACE PENSION

If you are employed, then your employer must provide you with a pension and pay into it as dictated by auto-enrolment rules, as long as you are aged over 22 and earn over £10,000. The rules state that the employer must pay at least 3% into the pension, and the employee pays at least 5% (1% via tax relief). So, workplace pensions are an excellent way to save because when you pay in, so does your employer. And, if you can pay in more then some employers will also do this. It is worth checking with your HR department to see if the company matches increased contributions.

## **PAY IN MORE**

Even if your employer does not match your increased contributions, if you can afford to, then it is worth paying in extra when you can. Even by pumping in just 1% more, you could gain an extra £37,000 in retirement.\*\* You can also pay in ad-hoc lump sums, such as from a bonus. A cash injection of £1,000 every five years could boost your pension pot by £23,000 when you retire.\*\*\*

## CHECK YOUR STATE PENSION

You can find out if you are on track with your state pension and when you will get it at gov.uk/ check-state-pension.

Most people need 35 years' National Insurance contributions to get the full pension; if not, look into paying voluntary contributions.



### **LOST PENSIONS**

If you have had several jobs, you may well have a number of small pots. Make sure all the providers have up-to-date contact details so you can keep track. And if you have several small pots, it may be worth consolidating them - but before you do, seek advice to ensure you do not miss out on any guaranteed benefits when you move your pots.

### **SELF-EMPLOYED PENSIONS**

Around 60% of self-employed people do not have pension savings and they could be in for a shock in their golden years. If this is you, it is easy to get started by setting up a personal pension and paying into it regularly. There are several investment platforms offering pension options.

## Remember, a state pension alone is not enough for a comfortable retirement

## **Find out more**

- **GOVERNMENT PENSIONS SERVICE** For state pension help, visit gov.uk/contact-pension-service.
- **MONEYHELPER** To discover useful guides and information on pensions, visit moneyhelper.org.uk.
- **PENSION WISE** For guidance for over 50s and information on how to take money from a defined contribution pension pot, visit moneyhelper.org.uk/en/pensions-and-retirement/pension-wise.

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Are you planning a kitchen revamp? Or is poring over a wide range of kitchen designs your secret guilty pleasure? Whatever your kitchenrelated needs, this book is a must for any budding kitchenphile. Created by the Ideal Home team, it's packed with oodles of inspiration, advice and must-have knowhow to ensure vou're up to speed with the latest trends and style tricks for kitchens of all shapes and sizes. And the best bit? It won't cost you a single penny. Enjoy!

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# happy

## HEATHER YOUNG ON TAKING TIME WITH COLOUR DECISIONS



As some of you will already know, I recently had a colour disaster in my house, and it served as a reminder of what an impact the wrong shade can have on how a space feels.

I have been gradually adding more and more colour to my home, always

trying to keep a balance as I know that if a space feels too busy, then I will find it hard to relax. But that doesn't mean I exclude bold shades. I love my black living room so much that I'm now constantly tempted to embrace dark, dramatic colours in every room, but I'm not sure I'm totally brave enough for that yet.

One space that offers the perfect invitation to go mad with colour is a downstairs loo, and that's

exactly what I opted to do when we recently gave our dark and cramped room a budget makeover. Seduced by all the on-trend red shades I've been seeing everywhere, I decided that this was a brilliant opportunity to have a go at colour drenching and paint the walls, woodwork and ceiling all in the same impactful colour. So far so good, but I was

too impatient and I didn't take the time I should have when choosing the paint colour and jumped in feet first – rookie error! It wasn't until the room had its first coat of paint that I realised I'd made a mistake, and the red wasn't quite what I'd pictured in my mind.

And so I was faced with a decorating dilemma. With time at a premium, I wasn't thrilled at the prospect of having to start over, so it was extremely tempting to crack on with the paint I'd already chosen and bought. And maybe I would have done that, had I not quickly come to the realisation that it wasn't just that I didn't love the colour, it actually set me on edge and made me feel unhappy and unsettled. This emotional response is backed up by research – red elicits really intense



emotions (positive and negative), so it can cause anxiety and feelings of overwhelm.

Now I may not spend hours in the downstairs loo, but I still want it to be a space that I feel happy in, so I knew that I would have to suck it up and repaint it. I took my time trying out other testers and ended up switching from intense red to a softer, earthy shade of terracotta that I am head over heels in love with. It feels friendly and cocooning, rather than triggering the fight-or-flight response I had to the previous hue.

66 T have to find a balance when adding colour to my home, if it feels too busy, then T'll find it harder to relax

Farrow & Ball's Red Earth feels relaxing and cheerful **POP ON DISPLAY** Flowers always give me a feel-good hit, so I treated myself to a this new rustic vase, £26, B&Q **STRIKING DESIGN** I've been busy styling up my outdoor sofa, ready for summer entertaining. Ikat cushion, £15, M&S

**WARM SHADE** 





## Double the battery, double the power.

**NEW** 3 Series battery garden tools with smart storage and on-board charging solution for all your gardening needs.







## THE PROBLEM

The garden was totally overgrown, chock full of climbers and thorn bushes

## THE SOLUTION

The couple worked with Joanna Archer (joannaarcher gardendesign.com) on a complete transformation. 'When we briefed Joanna,' recalls Alexander, 'we asked her for the Garden of Eden. We didn't want a typical manicured lawn but something more inviting,

relaxed and different; a mishmash of different plants which maybe wouldn't automatically be put together... a bit like us!' The plot was re-landscaped, with everything removed, apart from two significant trees - a Japanese acer and a Turkish acorn. 'We worked around the trees. The acer has a lovely shape and is a

beautiful red in the autumn.' Their scheme was inspired by the gardens and riads of Morocco, and materials such as clay and glazed cement, and green and white tiles have helped to shape the space into one that is now filled with a collage of trees, hedges, climbers and flowers, ensuring there's plenty of year-round interest.



ABOVE In a small patio area, large sliding windows have been fitted with an extra deep concrete sill to create a drinks/bar area. 'We have high stools to pull up to it for pre-dinner drinks,' says Alexander.

RIGHT An outdoor speaker system linked to the vinyl collection in the house is cleverly hidden in 'rock' speakers. 'You can barely see them hidden amongst the plants, and they're weather resistant,' explains Alexander.

## **FOCUS ON...**

## RAISED BED PLANTERS

Easier to manage than gardening on open ground, choose a spot to achieve satisfying results

## WHY HAVE THEM?

These enclosed, freestanding beds are constructed above ground level and are great for growing vegetables, soft fruit and cut flowers. As well as being a more accessible way to garden, they allow you to create conditions that ensure plants thrive. You can resolve tricky design challenges in the garden by custom-building them to suit your outside space; they also add structural architectural interest. especially to a small plot.

## CHOOSE THE BEST LOCATION

Sunshine is essential for fruit and flower growth, so position raised beds

in south or west-facing parts of your garden, away from the shade of overhanging trees. Run long beds north to south for even sunlight levels.

## MATERIALS TO CONSIDER

Concrete and timber are the most robust options. A concrete planter can help the soil to warm up more quickly in the spring - a real benefit if you want to start growing fruit and veg early in the year. Railway sleepers look great, are sturdy and will last years, while readymade timber kits, that can be simply screwed together, are a good choice for novice gardeners and small-scale projects.





## **66** We wanted a garden you'd notice as soon as you entered the house: inviting, relaxed and different **99**

ABOVE 'We chose a smart, anthracite grey shade for the pavers to contrast with the otherwise green scheme,' says Alexander. Trellis covered in an abundance of pungent jasmine keeps the garden both private and fragrant.

Sustainably sourced clay pavers, £75sq m, Chelmer Valley

RIGHT The L-shaped kitchen is fitted with an integrated gas grill and a Big Green Egg barbecue, with plenty of room for food preparation and storage.

FAR RIGHT A rustic freestanding sink has become naturally oxidised green by the elements and makes a practical, stylish addition to the prep space.





FEATURE RUTH CORBETT PHOTOGRAPHS MIA\_B\_PHOTOS





# Eco-friendly water-based garden paints and wood stains

Available in over 160 colours and natural wood tones





#### **WEBER LUMIN**

**FUEL** Electric **COOKING** AREA 1,562cm2 WEIGHT 20.5kg PRICE £679 (incl. stand)

First up, it's perfect for those without a garden, who want a barbecue for a balcony or terrace instead (provided you have a plug socket nearby). In testing we found it was as easy to use as a regular oven and it's packed full of clever features to make it worth the hefty price tag, including accessories that allow you to turn it into a steamer, smoker or food warmer instead of just an average barbecue. Its ease of use and versatility make it a standout performer. That. teamed with the fact that it's perfect for those who live in cities, or have more constricted outdoor space.

**REASON TO BUY** Unbelievably easy and quick to set up and use

means it's an Ideal Home favourite.

**BEST BUDGET BUY** 

**CADAC CITI CHEF 40** 

FUEL Gas (1 burner) COOKING

gas barbecue, then this model is

a wonderfully affordable option.

In our at-home tests, we found it had

enough space and power to cater for

smaller outdoor cooking occasions.

While the assembly is a little

tiresome, using this barbecue

and a single burner) is part of

what makes it so great, and it's

too. Plus, there's an incredibly

a paella pan to a pizza stone.

**REASON TO BUY** Stylish,

suitable for patios and terraces,

good range of accessories - from

couldn't be easier. It took just five

simplicity (with automatic ignition

minutes for it to be ready to use. Its

AREA Dia 38cm WEIGHT 12kg

PRICE £140 (incl. stand)

looking to totally break

the bank on your next

If, like us, you're not

**REASON TO AVOID** Restricted to cooking near an electric outlet RATING 5/5

# Tried Tested

We believe that any product should be simple to use, stand the test of time, look good and work brilliantly to make your life easier. Our testing team put each product through its paces at home, over several weeks. pitting them against everyday situations. Those products that make the mark are awarded a star rating. And the very, very EST. 1920 best are awarded ldeal Home our 'Ideal Home APPROVED Approved' recommendation.

**BEST LUXURY** 

#### **BIG GREEN EGG MINIMAX**

FUEL Charcoal COOKING AREA Dia33cm WEIGHT 40kg PRICE £795

Just like the larger, more expensive model, this mini version of the Big Green Egg is an unbelievably stylish yet practical barbecue. There's no denying that it's expensive but it's extremely versatile, as it can roast, bake, slow (and low) cook, grill, smoke and even pan cook food. In our tests, we found that by using the brand's air-flow tech, the grill got up to heat in just 12 minutes. It certainly retains heat well once lit (for up to 10 hours), and aced recipes

including a whole chicken, steaks and veggies. It comes with a dome temperature gauge, and we found it easy to keep it within a few degrees of the desired temperature

> throughout cooking. When you've finished, the leftover fats are cooked down by the heat of the egg, meaning all that's left is an easily swept away ash, leaving it ready to cook again the next time.

> > **REASON TO BUY**

Very well built, burns well and holds heat for long periods

**REASON TO AVOID** 

Expensive, heavy and requires two people to lift RATING 5/5

**REASON TO AVOID** It won't be big enough for large parties unless you cook ahead **RATING** 4.5/5

compact and great value design

JRE MOLLY CLEARY, GINEVRA BENEDETTI OGRAPH FUTURECONTENTHUB, COM/SIMON WHITEMORE





CADAC



small patio can easily become overcrowded, making it harder to enjoy, but we've rounded up a few simple design tricks that will make your patio feel larger and more spacious. And it doesn't have to cost a fortune – a few simple design tricks might be enough for your patio, but if you have a bigger budget there are plenty of

TRICK THE EYE WITH MIRRORS

other ways to improve the space.

I When we want to make a room feel bigger, mirrors really help, and it's an idea that also works outside. 'Including mirrors is a clever way to achieve the illusion of extra space,' says Suzi Samaddar, room styling expert at Furn.com.

'Using mirrors in a space, particularly opposite each other, can create the illusion of depth and openness - it's a classic interior hack, but it works just as effectively outdoors, too. Place mirrors on walls, fences or other outdoor structures to instantly make your patio seem larger.'

PICK MULTIPURPOSE FURNITURE
Being clever with furniture choices
can help make the most of a space.
'Prioritise functionality and organisation,'
suggests Jeannette Hudson, furniture
expert at The Online Sofa Shop. 'Opt for
furniture that serves more than one
purpose, such as storage benches with
lift-up seats and space underneath, or
coffee tables with built-in compartments.'

TRY VERTICAL PLANTING
In a smaller space, you might feel confined by fences or walls - vertical planting can help it feel less closed in. 'Small gardens, patios and balconies can still be overflowing with greenery - the secret is to grow vertically,' explains Patty Willems of sustainable plant pot experts Elho. 'By bringing your walls to life with pots filled with pretty plants, you can take a boring and dull small space, and turn it into a thriving and lively green oasis.'

TAKE THE FLOOR OUTSIDE
When embarking on a bigger patio project, laying the same flooring both inside and out can help blur the boundaries between the areas and make a patio feel larger. 'An ever-popular use for stone pavers and tiles is to continue the same choice of flooring from the kitchen out on to a patio,' advises Isabel Fernandez at Quorn Stone. 'This makes



#### **ADD A MIRROR**

In a frame like this, a carefully positioned mirror offers the illusion of further space beyond as it reflects the greenery

#### **PLANT UPWARDS**

Use a trellis to train planting up a fence to draw the eye vertically and emphasise it with tall plants in pots





down and through the evergreen foliage, to add an element of surprise and interest as the seasons change."

**INSTALL HORIZONTAL FENCING** 

If you want to keep fencing on show, use it to direct attention towards the end of the garden, which will also make the space near the house feel larger.

'Any lines within your garden can have an effect on the illusion of space,' explains Leigh Barnes, garden expert at Jacksons Fencing. 'Paying attention to the direction of the joins in paving slabs or decking and the lines within fence panels will have an impact. Installing these in a certain direction or shape can trick the eye by drawing it along the length of the garden, no matter how short, giving the illusion of a larger outside area.'

THINK ABOUT PAVING SIZE

igotimes When you create a patio area, the size and shape of the paving stones is key to how big the space will feel. 'Longer, plank-like tiles can give smaller spaces an illusion of expansiveness, so consider

wood-effect outdoor tiles, or any others that have a rectangular form,' suggests Colin Lincoln-Evans, buyer at Tile Mountain. 'Similarly, larger tiles with rectified edges will minimise the intrusiveness of grout joints - the bigger the tiles, the fewer you'll use and the fewer grout joints you'll have.'

SELECT STACKABLE FURNITURE
If you use your patio for a number of different activities, choosing furniture that can be stacked or folded away when not in use can help prevent the space from feeling cramped. 'Steer clear of cluttering up a petite patio area with furniture that sits unused most of the year,' explains Caron Grant, brand manager at Bridgman. 'Think smart with stylish and space-saving flexible furniture. Go for chairs, bar stools and even loungers that are designed to be folded and stacked on top of each other then stored away out of sight when not in use. Pair stackable chairs with a foldable table for a set you can effortlessly move to one side whenever you need more space.'

an inspiring indoor-outdoor living space - and many limestone and porcelain tiles are suitable for both interior and exterior use, creating a seamless look.'

5 KEEP IT CLUTTER-FREE If you're tripping over plant pots, garden tools and kids' toys every time you go out in the garden, you might find that all you need to make your patio feel bigger is a major declutter. 'A small patio needs regular maintenance and tidying to look and feel spacious,' explains Jane Dobbs, from the gardening team at Allan's Gardeners. 'Keep furniture surfaces clean by sweeping away leaves, removing debris and wiping them down. Invest in storage solutions so you can keep your outdoor space organised.'

#### **BLUR THE BOUNDARIES WITH** O EVERGREEN PLANTING

Adding plants that stay green all year round will help a small space feel more open by concealing its real size.

'Evergreen planting is essential - use it as a base in a small patio area,' explains Harriet Worsley of Worsley Design & Consultancy. 'Green, silver or even almost fluorescent green-yellow evergreen leaves will mean that the garden continues to look fresh throughout the year. Then the flowering perennials or annuals that you plant can drift up and



**EEATURE** AMY HODGE **PHOTOGRAPHS** BLACK BY DESIGN; FUTURECONTENTHUB.COM/ CHRIS SNOOK, CLAIRE LLOYD DAVIES, JOANNA HENDERSON, LIZZIE ORME









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# Pizza ovens

THE ULTIMATE SOCIAL DINING EXPERIENCE, PERFECT FOR ALL AGES AND FLAVOUR PREFERENCES – INVEST IN A PIZZA OVEN THIS SUMMER

#### **BEFORE YOU BUY**

- Always check an oven's weight. The majority of pizza ovens particularly clay or brick designs are very heavy and can be tricky to manoeuvre without equipment or several helpers. If the model you want is a beast, ask if the supplier will move it into position for you. Alternatively, pick a design that comes with a stand on wheels so that you can move it around the garden.
- Pizza is traditionally cooked in a wood-fired oven for that signature smoky flavour. However, some pizza ovens have gas burners that will get the oven cavity up to temperature much quicker. Wood-fired ovens are generally going to be the most affordable option in terms of initial outlay, and, as a rule, wood is a cheaper and potentially more environmentally friendly fuel type when compared to gas. Charcoal, pellet burners and electric models are other fuel options.
- The temperature of the oven should peak somewhere between 400C and 500C, and the better the oven maintains its temperature, the more pizzas you can produce from one firing.
- A small oven shouldn't take too long to heat up - around 10-15 minutes if you're using gas, and closer to 20 if you're opting for pellets or charcoal. A larger oven can take anything up to an hour. The cooking of the pizza itself is relatively quick. And unless you have an oven with a rotating base, you'll need to turn your pizza once to get an even bake. Every oven is different, but it won't take long for you to learn its optimal cooking time. Gas powered ovens will take as little as 60 seconds to cook a pizza. If you're finding that your pizza is taking longer than, say, six minutes to cook, your oven isn't hot enough.
- A temperature gauge is handy, as you'll always know when the oven's ready to cook. Look out for models with griddles, as then you'll be able to use the oven as a barbecue as well.



#### **OONI FYRA PIZZA OVEN**

PIZZA SIZE 12 inch FUEL TYPE Wood-fired **HEAT UP TIME 15 minutes MAX** 

**TEMPERATURE 500°C DIMENSIONS** H72.6x W39.4xD74.2cm WEIGHT 10kg PRICE £299

This model managed a flawless performance in testing thanks to its low maintenance set-up and cooking process, with the flames it creates achieving that authentic, smoky flavour. It's more effort than a gas-fired alternative, and it will need one person's (almost) undivided attention. If you want to cook multiple pizzas for a large group then you'll need to get the oven back up to temperature between bakes. So provided you

have the time and patience to invest in the authentic wood-fired pizza-making experience, this option could be the fit for you.

Tried Tested

We believe that any product should be simple to use, stand the test of time, look good and work brilliantly to make your life easier. Our testing team put each product through its paces at home, over several weeks, pitting them against everyday situations. Those products that make the mark are awarded a star rating. And the very, very EST. 1920 best are awarded ldeal Home our 'Ideal Home APPROVED

**REASON TO BUY** Easy to use **REASON TO AVOID** Higher maintenance than a gas-fired option RATING 5/5

#### **BEST BUDGET BUY**

**WOODY PIZZA OVEN** 

PIZZA SIZE 12 inch FUEL TYPE Wood

(gas attachment also available) **HEAT UP TIME 15 minutes** 

**MAX TEMPERATURE 500C** 

**DIMENSIONS** HAOX W41xD54cm WEIGHT

12.5kg **PRICE** £259.99 (£329.99 with gas attachment)

This model is a great balance of price and performance. It's a 12-inch wood-fired pizza oven first and foremost,

but it also offers the flexibility of an additional fuel option with the addition of a gas burner. As well as being a great oven, its USP is the fact that it comes with all the accessories that you need to cook pizza straight away, including a pizza peel, carry bag, built-in temperature gauge and an oven door. No other brand we have reviewed comes with these extras as standard and buying them separately can cost you over £100.

**REASON TO BUY** You get everything you need for £260, which makes it great value **REASON TO AVOID** Some of the edges are a little

sharp making it hard to carry **RATING** 4.5/5

#### **BEST ELECTRIC**

#### NINJA WOODFIRE OUTDOOR OVEN

Approved'

recommendation.

PIZZA SIZE 12 inch FUEL TYPE Electric HEAT **UP TIME** 16 minutes during our test **MAX TEMPERATURE 370C DIMENSIONS** H41xW57xD51cm WEIGHT 18kg PRICE £349.99

Designed to live outside despite being an electric oven, this is a seriously capable multi-functional buy, with eight different settings to allow you to make pizza, smoke meat, bake, roast, dehydrate, warm and more. Crucially, it's also really easy to use, so you won't have to struggle with nearly-there pizzas, and can start enjoying using it from the start. Add to that its versatile ability to roast joints of meat and even bake or smoke food, and this really is an excellent bit of kit with endless cooking

possibilities, and a great multi-functional oven if that's what you're looking for. It can fit up to a 5kg beef joint so it's great for feeding a crowd.

#### **REASON TO BUY**

A multifunctional oven that produces excellent pizza **REASON TO** 

**AVOID** Expensive with a limited capacity **RATING** 5/5

FOR MORE PIZZA OVENS, VISIT IDEALHOME.CO.UK/BUYING-GUIDES-REVIEWS





# GROW SOME MAGIC

#### BASK IN BOTANICAL BRILLIANCE WITH MIRACLE-GRO

o matter if you've got a sprawling garden or a bijou balcony oasis, nothing beats the excitement and joy of successfully growing plants, fruit and veg. Seeing the radiant blooms of your first home-grown dahlias or feasting on your delicious crop of strawberries can lead us all to have a little moment of giddy pride and joy. This feeling is what Miracle-Gro coins 'Gro-ments' – that thrill we get from the achievement of nurturing plants.

#### GOOD-QUALITY COMPOST

Growing successfully all starts with good soil – but not all peat-free compost is created equal. Miracle-Gro offers a wide range of peat-free composts to help keep many different types of plants healthy and strong for seasons to come.

However, as extracting peat to use in peat-based compost has a detrimental effect on the environment, Miracle-Gro has worked for over 30 years to come up with an alternative. After lots of research and development, Miracle-Gro has gone peat-free and proudly shares that its compost is as good – if not

better – than traditional peat-based composts. Which means you can enjoy yet another Miracle-Gro 'Gro-ment' for doing your bit for the environment.

#### TAILOR MADE

Miracle-Gro has perfected its recipes for composts, so you can rest assured that you're buying a top-quality product that will give you the best results. What's more, Miracle-Gro has a comprehensive range of peat-free composts, each tailored to specific uses. Choose from all-purpose compost, which provides optimum structure for roots to grow strong; moisture-control compost for your pots and baskets; and fruit and vegetable compost, which includes organic plant food.

#### **GROWING SUCCESS**

Use Miracle-Gro's peat-free compost and you'll have a garden filled with vibrant, happy plants and a wellstocked veg patch, so you can enjoy those extra-special 'Gro-ments'. Find Miracle-Gro peat-free composts at B&Q, Amazon and all good garden centres.



#### FOR MORE INFORMATION



To discover more about Miracle-Gro, visit lovethegarden.com and follow @miraclegrouk on Facebook and Instagram FEATURE AMY HODGE PHOTOGRAPH FUTURECONTENTHUB.COM/COLIN POOL

#### PROJECT PLANNING

# Everything you need to know about... paving

LOOKING TO UPGRADE YOUR OUTDOOR SPACE THIS SEASON? WE ASK THE EXPERTS FOR THE LOWDOWN ON SURFACE MATERIALS TO HELP YOU CHOOSE

iving your patio a refresh now that the sunny weather is here might be at the top of your to-do list, but with so many different materials to choose from it can be hard to know which one to go for. Whether you're looking for a high-end finish or a terrace on a budget, we outline the pros and cons of each paving type to help you select the best one.

#### DESIGN INSPIRATION

Create an area with a practical and attractive surface for eating, relaxing and simply enjoying being outdoors







## BEST FOR LOW MAINTENANCE

**PORCELAIN** 

If you're looking for a material with a wide range of designs, as well as being easy to care for, porcelain is a top pick.

#### **PROS**

- Longevity 'It may have a high up-front cost,' says Aidan Bell, co-founder of EnviroBuild. 'But porcelain's cost-effectiveness becomes apparent due to its long-lasting properties.'
- Different finishes 'Porcelain can mimic various textures, including stone, wood and even concrete,' adds Aidan.
- Easy to maintain 'The slabs are more durable than the natural stone and timber they replicate,' says Colin Lincoln Evans, buyer at Tile Mountain. 'They don't require sealing, and have built-in UV protection.'

#### CONS

- Expensive 'The initial investment can be higher compared to other paving options,' says Molly Woodward-Moor, creative director, Stone Superstore.
- Installation 'Due to its precise fitting and handling requirements, porcelain paving may require professional installation, adding to the expense,' says Aidan.



2

### BEST FOR TEXTURE LIMESTONE

Renowned for its stylish qualities, limestone is also popular due to the anti-slip properties of its textured finish. 'Limestone offers a classic and elegant look,' explains Glen Peskett, home DIY expert and owner of Saxton Blades. 'And it's typically more affordable than other natural stones.'

#### **PROS**

■ Durability 'Limestone is hard-wearing, easy to maintain and can handle outdoor elements, ensuring its longevity,' advises Molly Woodward-Moor. 'Plus, the low water absorption of limestone tiles reduces the risk of damage caused by freeze-thaw cycles.'

#### CONS

- \*\*Surface wear

  'Limestone is durable but may be prone to scratching and can be more susceptible to staining than some other materials,' says Glen.
- \*\*Elimited colour options\*\*

  'Being a natural-forming stone, limestone has relatively few colour options; typically it's only available in grey, beige and cream, which may restrict design possibilities,' says Molly.



3

## BEST FOR A NATURAL LOOK

**SANDSTONE** 

In a country garden setting, sandstone is a natural choice for a patio or terrace. 'Its rustic appearance, which is rich in texture and character. adds subtle warmth to pathways and patios, making it an ideal option if you are looking to enhance the natural ambience of your outdoor spaces,' says Molly Woodward-Moor. Garden designer Baz Grainger from Landform Consultants agrees: 'Sandstone is easy to clean, easy to maintain and one of the cheaper natural-stone options.'

#### **PROS**

■ Durability 'It requires minimal maintenance and can be cleaned with water and an appropriate mild detergent,' says Molly. 'Regular sweeping and sealing will help to prolong its lifespan and maintain its appearance.'

#### **CONS**

\*\*Pavers may stain 'Sandstone's porous nature makes it prone to liquid absorption and staining. But regular cleaning and sealing will prevent issues such as discolouration and weathering,' adds Molly.



### BEST FOR A UNIQUE APPEARANCE

SLATE

With its natural good looks, slate is often a popular choice for garden patios and paths. 'Slate is a non-porous paving material that works well for outdoor spaces,' explains Fiona Jenkins, garden design expert at MyJobQuote.co.uk. 'As it's available as both slabs and flagstones, you can choose between a smooth and square look, or a more natural, textured paving style, working slate into modern or traditional garden designs.'

#### **PROS**

■ Distinctive looks 'Due to its unique texture and colour, slate is a good option if you are seeking visual appeal,' explains Molly Woodward-Moor. 'Unlike some other natural materials, such as wooden decking, its colour doesn't fade quickly, making it a long-standing and attractive choice.'

#### **CONS**

**Expensive** 'While slate is a fantastic, timeless option it can tend to be on the more expensive side,' adds Molly. 'It typically requires professional installation to ensure its longevity and stability.'



5

### BEST FOR PATTERN PAVING BLOCKS

Looking for more options for the design of your outdoor space? Paving blocks are a versatile choice as they can be laid in many different ways.

#### **PROS**

- Easy to replace 'If a paving block becomes damaged, it can be easily replaced without having to remove the entire paved area,' says Molly Woodward-Moor. 'This makes repairs simple and cost-effective.'
- Versatility 'Paving blocks offer a wide range of design possibilities, allowing for various patterns and styles,' says Tom Allen, owner of TGA Concrete Pumping.

#### **CONS**

- Weed growth 'The joints between paving blocks can provide space for weeds to grow, especially if they are not tightly packed or filled, so regular weeding is essential,' explains Molly.
- Maintenance 'Blocks will require periodic cleaning and sealing to maintain appearance and reduce wear.' she continues.
- Cost 'The initial cost of paving blocks can be higher compared to other surface options,' adds Tom.



6

#### MOST BUDGET-FRIENDLY

**CONCRETE PAVERS** 

When it comes to a more affordable paving option, concrete pavers are one of the cheapest materials. 'They come in a range of colours and styles while requiring little to no maintenance,' explains Alice Turner, head of product at landscaping suppliers Marshalls.

#### **PROS**

- Durability 'Concrete slabs are highly durable and can withstand various weather conditions, such as rain and frost, without deteriorating quickly,' explains Tom Allen.
- Low maintenance 'Once they're installed, concrete slabs require minimal maintenance compared to other materials, such as wood or gravel,' he adds.

#### **CONS**

■ Lack of aesthetics

'Concrete slabs may not offer the same attractive appeal as natural stone or wood,' says Tom. 'And this can impact the overall look and feel of your garden.'

Surface heat retention
'Concrete slabs absorb
and retain heat from
direct sunlight, making
them uncomfortable to
walk on barefoot on hot
summer days,' says Tom.





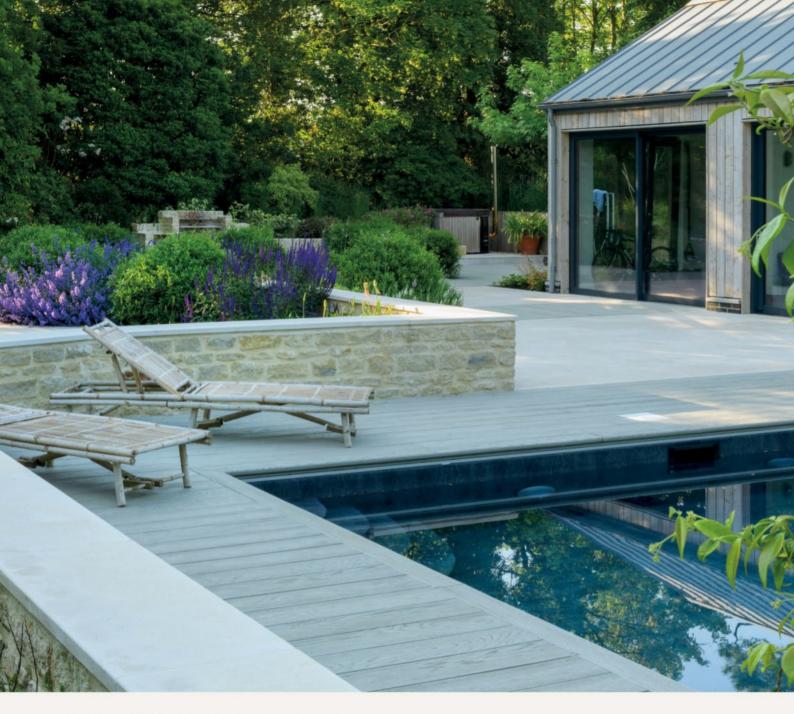




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**IDEAS FOR A SUSTAINABLE HOME** 



# Doorstep drop

Flower subscriptions are nothing new. But when we heard about Uncut Stems, a new service that delivers seasonal blooms with minimal packaging to your door, we were hooked. The flowers, from British growers, arrive at your door in a roll un-arranged and uncut (hence the name), and are left in a vase or jug that you leave out on your doorstep. You can choose from a weekly or fortnightly delivery, and each bunch comes with detailed information on each stem, as well as a guide on how to extend their vase life.



#### LONG LASTING

They may cost more than your average appliance but Miele's machines are known for their longevity. And, in the rare instances where a machine does stop working, the brand offers a standard call-out service with spares, as well as an option for a fixed-price repair. This year, Miele has updated its range of G7000 dishwashers with plenty of clever energy-saving tech. From wash programmes with lower energy and water consumption to the auto-dosing PowerDisk ECO detergent, which is free of microplastics and fragrances, Miele is looking to the future with products that are built to last.

# Reduce, reuse recycle...

SECOND LIFE Find out where to recycle, donate or repair your electricals - from old lamps to broken battery-operated toys - at recycleyourelectricals.org.uk

#### **BATTERY REQUIRED** While

rechargeable batteries are always preferable when it comes to sustainability, they don't work for everything. And that's where Itson batteries come in, made using 100% renewable energy sourced from solar and wind power. They're available from Amazon, from £2.75 for four AA batteries and £12.28 for four AAA rechargeable batteries.

GARDEN FREEBIES If you're part of a community garden that is in dire need of some new kit to keep your space looking great, power and garden tool brand Stiga is gifting eco-friendly garden products to community garden groups, up and down the UK. Anyone can apply here: wecare.stigauk.com.



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- 4 visits including the Guggenheim Museum, Santillana del Mar, Altamira cave Museum and one of Rioja's traditional vineyards with tasting
- Sample delicious pintxos at a traditional bar in San Sebastián



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- Take a boat trip to the stunning island of Capri
- Travel along the Amalfi Coast



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- Return flights from a selection of regional airports with hotel transfers
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- The services of our experienced and insightful tour manager

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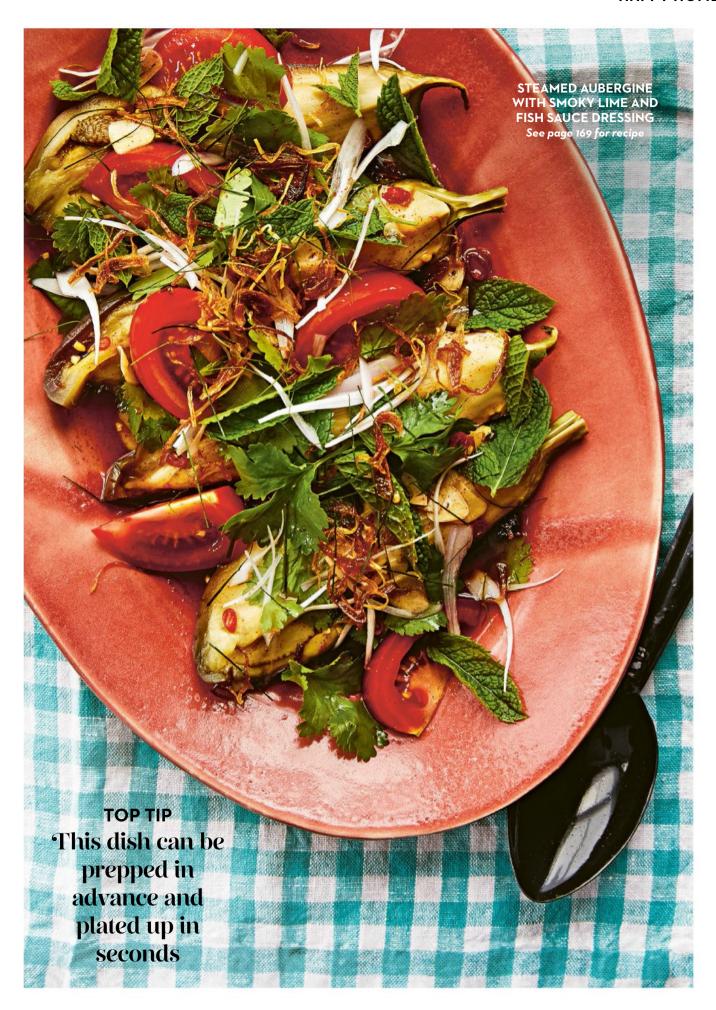
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# Penne with sausage and peppers

### SERVES 3-4 READY IN 30 MINS

- 200g penne 1tbsp olive oil 4 garlic cloves, thinly sliced 1tsp chilli flakes
   1tsp dried oregano 250ml water
   400g tin of chopped tomatoes 60g pitted green olives 2 peppers, deseeded and roughly chopped 300-400g sausages (Italian fennel sausages are best, but any will do), pricked all over with a fork A handful of basil or flat-leaf parsley leaves, torn or chopped Grated Parmesan or similar (optional)
- Combine the penne, oil, garlic, chilli flakes, oregano, water and tomatoes in a large bowl and stir to mix.
- **2** Add the olives, peppers and sausages on top. Cover and cook for 24 mins, stirring every 8 mins.
- **3** Stir in the basil at the end of cooking, taste and adjust the seasoning with salt as you like (for me it usually doesn't need any adding).
- **4** Garnish with grated Parmesan or a similar cheese, if you like.

# Steamed aubergine with smoky lime and fish sauce dressing

### SERVES 2 READY IN 15 MINS (PLUS RESTING)

•1 aubergine •1 shallot or 1/2 banana shallot, very thinly sliced with the grain •2 small tomatoes, quartered •Generous handfuls of mint and coriander leaves •1 fresh lime leaf, very, thinly sliced (optional) • A few crispy shallots FOR THE DRESSING • 2tbsp light brown sugar • Juice of 1 lime •1tbsp



#### fish sauce • 1/2tsp smoked paprika • 1 bird's eye or similar small, hot chilli, very thinly sliced • 1 garlic clove, very thinly sliced

- Make the dressing first. Stir everything together until the sugar dissolves. This is best made at least an hour in advance to allow the flavours to mingle.
- 2 Cut the aubergine into quarters lengthways, so you have four long baton-shaped pieces. Bundle these pieces up and wrap them in cling film, then cook for 4-6 mins, turning the bundle once during cooking. The aubergines should be totally soft, so if there are any firm bits, keep cooking for 1-2 mins. Transfer to the refrigerator to chill (this will take at least an hour).

  3 To serve, unwrap the chilled aubergines and lay on a plate. Scatter over the raw shallots, tomatoes and fresh herbs, then pour over the dressing and top with a few crispy shallots (if using).

#### Grapefruit and honey mixing bowl drizzle cake

#### SERVES 8-10 READY IN 35 MINS

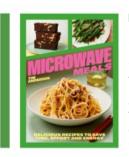
- FOR THE SYRUP •1 pink grapefruit
  •2 lemons •100g honey FOR THE
  CAKE •200g butter •50g honey
  •150g caster sugar, ideally golden
  •3 eggs •200g plain flour •50g fine
  cornmeal (or polenta) •1tsp bicarbonate
  of soda •1 1/2tsp baking powder •1/4tsp
  salt FOR THE DRIZZLE •120g icing
  sugar •1tbsp lemon juice Pink or red
  food colouring, as needed Sprinkles
- I For best results, have everything at room temperature before you begin.

  Zest the grapefruit and one of the lemons with a fine grater, then squeeze



their juices into a medium-sized bowl, catching any seeds with your hands or a sieve. Add about a third of the zest to the juice along with the honey. Cook, uncovered, for 2-3 mins until the mixture boils and infuses. Set aside while you prepare the cake.

- 2 Place the butter in a large plastic bowl and cook, uncovered, for 1 min on power level 5 so it becomes very soft (it's okay if it melts a bit). Tip in the honey along with the sugar and whisk hard for a few minutes until the mixture is light and smooth.
- Beat in the eggs, one at a time, until well mixed, then add the flour, cornmeal, bicarbonate of soda, baking powder and salt. Mix until just combined, then fold in the remaining citrus zest with a spatula, scraping down the sides and bottom of the bowl as you go.
- 4 Cover the bowl and cook for 6 mins. While the cake is still warm, poke it repeatedly with a thin skewer, then pour over half of the citrus-honey syrup. Return to the microwave and cook for 1 min.
- 5 Leave to cool, then turn the cake out of the bowl and onto a plate. Poke holes in the upper surface of the cake as you did with the bottom, and pour over the rest of the syrup.
- **6** Stir together the icing sugar, lemon juice and food colouring to make a drizzle-able pink icing, then pour all over the cake and finish with sprinkles.



■ Find these recipes and more in Microwave Meals: Delicious recipes to save time effort and energy by Tim Anderson (£16.99, Hardie Grant Books)

# trending on... IDEALHOME.CO.UK

# Best garden furniture

Covering looks and longevity, we've rounded up the best sets for gardens of all sizes.



# Easy DIY projects

Is your home in need of a quick pick-me-up? We've rounded up loads of simple projects that will allow you to give any room a fresh new look, so you can really put your stamp on your space. From paint ideas and upcycling furniture to Ikea hacks and hanging wallpaper, these are all projects that you can tackle over a long weekend and help build up your DIY confidence.

#### Zen garden ideas

Channel a chilled-out vibe and follow our neat tips on how to create a minimalist style garden by transforming your outdoor space into a calming retreat.



**HEATHER YOUNG, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF** 

# Removing weeds from your patio

Rid your patio, pathways and paving stones of unwanted growth (and make sure it doesn't come back) with the help of our expert advice.



#### How to clean a barbecue

At the first sign of sunshine, we jump at the chance to have a barbecue. Make sure yours is ready to grill at a moment's notice with this brilliant must-have guide.

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# tidy house tidy mind

# DISCOVER SIMPLE WAYS TO KEEP YOUR BATHROOM STORAGE ORGANISED IN AS LITTLE TIME AS POSSIBLE

A bathroom is where we take long showers or hot bubble baths and prioritise self-care. But it can't be spa-like if your cabinet is overflowing and the countertop is cluttered with shampoo bottles, face washes and other toiletries.

You might think it's as easy as hiding your essentials behind the mirrored doors of a medicine cabinet. But creating tranquillity is more than making the room look minimalist and lighting a candle. Whether you have under-the-sink storage, shelving or even just a bath caddy, there's an art to sorting bathroom storage.

What's more, having a clean and tidy bathroom has benefits beyond aesthetics. Remember it's a functional space and keeping it in check is vital for efficient morning routines - especially in busy households.

#### START WITH A DECLUTTER

The first step is the same every time you need to declutter something. You start with clearing everything out. But this can be easier said than done. As Ava Wilson, cleaning expert at Unclutterer explains: 'Decluttering your bathroom isn't just about removing items that are out of date or you don't use - though you should do this too - it's about carefully considering what truly adds value to your daily routine.' So if you like to stay stocked up with your favourite shampoo, toothpaste and skincare, it's time to stop, unless you have space elsewhere in your home to store excess products, because it's highly likely that you won't have space in your bathroom to store more than you need.

#### ORGANISE ACCORDING TO USE

Once you've cut your cabinet's contents down to the essentials, it's time to put them into categories. Group



medicines, skincare, haircare, body washes, cleaning supplies and whatever else together. Then, organise them all according to usage.

If you reach for your vitamins every morning, make sure they sit at the front of the cabinet. Only wear makeup once a week? Keep it in a bag further back in the cupboard. This not only simplifies finding what you need but also enhances the overall aesthetics of your cabinet, Ava explains.

#### **CONSIDER HYGIENE**

Cabinet space should be saved for things that need to be kept behind closed doors. Not only because there are certain items we might not want on show, but also because airborne particles in a bathroom could contaminate whatever is left nearby. For example, personal medicines, hygiene products and even toothbrushes should be kept inside a bathroom cabinet. If you have an electric toothbrush, the cabinet can be a great place to put chargers, spare heads and travel cases, too. For a clutter-free space, keep as little on show as possible and reserve any open shelving space for your more decorative items.

#### **CHOOSE CLEVER STORAGE**

There are lots of easy ways to organise a bathroom cabinet, and how you arrange it will depend on its size, style and shape. Wayne Spriggs, CEO and founder of >



Lusso, explains: 'It's important to utilise what space you have with clever storage. By incorporating storage that provides both function and visual appeal, you can create the illusion of more space, and have more places to put things.' So if you have a tall bathroom cabinet, for example, introducing modular shelving or stackable containers will mean you can make use of height. If your cabinet is deep, adding a lazy Susan allows for easy access to items you keep at the back. It's also important to remember not everything needs to go behind your bathroom cabinet doors. In fact, Wayne suggests 'hanging up all towels, including the clean ones, rather than folding them up and putting them on shelves. This avoids overloading your cabinet with items that don't need to be there.'

#### UTILISE DOOR SPACE

Many bathroom cabinet doors are unused, but they can add precious storage space to a more compact space. Ava suggests 'installing small racks, hooks, or magnetic strips on the inside of a cabinet door to add some much-needed extra storage options. This space is ideal for storing smaller items like hair ties, tweezers, or even lightweight hair tools without cluttering up the main cabinet space.'

#### MAINTAIN WITH REGULAR CHECKS

Just like a kitchen cupboard, you reach for items in your bathroom cabinet daily. This is why it's important to regularly maintain it with stock rotations and tidy ups. Stay on top of product use and clean out any empty bottles before buying more. If you store medicines in your bathroom cupboard, keep a check on expiry dates, too. The same goes for skincare and makeup – look for the little pot-shaped icon on the packaging, it will tell you how many months the item will be at its best after opening. You could write dates on products so you know when they were first used.

And remember, organising your bathroom cupboard is not a one-time job; to keep on top of the clutter, it's worth reassessing everything every four to six weeks or so to prevent it from getting out of hand.



# IN A SPIN The Home Edit & iDesign storage turntable, £9.60, John Lewis & Partners

Every bathroom cabinet needs...

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# FEATURE GEMMA CALVERT PHOTOGRAPH JONATHAN RING

# hometruths

#### HUGH FEARNLEY-WHITTINGSTALL GETS UP **CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH HIS HOME**

The celebrity chef and TV personality lives in Devon with wife Marie, daughter Louisa and their three doas

#### WHAT IS THE FIRST THING YOU DO WHEN YOU GET HOME?

I drop my backpack on an old leather armchair just inside the front door where there's also a sofa and a fireplace. I'm looking to make contact with either a human - my daughter Louisa or wife Marie – or one of our three dogs.

#### WHAT'S YOUR HOMEWARE **ADDICTION?**

I like to buy, occasionally, secondhand cookware that I think will look good in photographs because I put cookbooks together and I want them to look great. If I go into a secondhand shop, I'll look for stuff that has got a patina about it, that's got the feel of having been part of someone's life. When I buy a brand new frying pan every few years, I probably get the Le Creuset nonstick.

#### WHAT CHORE DO YOU LOVE DOING?

Making my daughter's breakfast. I don't really see it as a chore but it's something I do almost every day. It could be something very simple like toast and peanut butter, but I quite often make her scrambled eggs on toast and I always cut up one or two pieces of fruit. It takes a minute or two to put together a nice breakfast, then we sit down together for a chat before she goes to school.

#### ...AND WHAT CHORE DO YOU HATE?

The hoovering. I do it occasionally, but I'm not the main hoover-er. I hope that I make up for it in other ways but I suspect it probably is a deficit in my bank balance of domestic chores.

#### DO YOU HAVE A BAD HOME HABIT YOU'D LIKE TO QUIT?

I could be tidier. I take off shoes in odd



places around the house and, every now and again I find a small mountain of shoes at the bottom of the stairs, which is a subtle message [from my wife], saying. 'Please put them in more sensible places'.

#### WHAT DO YOU MISS MOST ABOUT YOUR HOME WHEN YOU'RE AWAY?

My family. I am a homesick traveller, which is not to say I don't enjoy the adventure of travel, but I'm always thinking of home. I call home, I send messages, I send pictures, I want pictures back of what's going on at home. I don't just stride out and disconnect. Coming home is always a great treat. There's that lovely sense of relief and calm.

# **HOT SEAT**

Shoes on or off? On and off... and all over the place.

Eat at table or laps? Always the table.

Lighting - bright or moody? Moodily lit - low and adjustable lighting.

Quick shower or long bath? Quick shower, followed by cold shower.

Music, radio, TV or quiet? Radio 4 for 6.30pm comedy while I'm cooking, then sometimes in the morning, Radio 3 for a bit of classical music.

■ How to Eat 30 Plants a Week by Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall is out now (£25, Bloomsbury).



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# Ideal Home's KITCHEN HANDBOOK

It's often said that a kitchen is the heart of a home, so whether you're designing it from scratch or planning to update a small section of it, you'll want to make sure you get every element just right. Embarking on a kitchen project can be exciting, but it has the tendency to be confusing, too. There are so many decisions to make - from cabinetry and worktops to flooring and appliances - the endless options available can be overwhelming. That's where this handbook becomes invaluable. From how to plan a new layout to design inspiration and product know-how, it's packed with must-have advice and style ideas that you can steal to create your dream kitchen.

The content in this book is aimed at providing inspiration for furniture, decorating, and storage solutions that can work in your home. Specific products are referenced within the book as a guide only – while the trends, prices and availability of products was correct at the time of original publication, please be aware this information is subject to change.

FUTURE

## Ideal Home's HANDBOOK

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## Ideal Home's HANDBOOK









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### PLAN THE PERFECT KITCHEN LAYOUT

Maximise your space with a hard-working layout that's up to the task

ayout is key to getting your kitchen right. It can look I fantastic but it needs to function, too. Before you start, look at everything from where to put your recycling to how close your oven is to your food store. After all, you don't want to end up walking the length of the kitchen every time you need something. A good kitchen designer will be able to advise on a layout that looks good and works. But before thinking about designs, it helps to have an idea of the five basic room formations.

#### **MAKE IMPROVEMENTS**

Write a comprehensive list of what you love and what you don't about the existing kitchen space. This will help you to concentrate on your must-haves and your don't wants.

#### **ENSURE IT WORKS FOR YOU**

Think about how you intend to use the space – do you cook from scratch or entertain a lot? Will the room be used for other tasks - homework, for example? Finally, think of the future and how your needs might change.

#### **CONSIDER STORAGE NEEDS**

Plan a place for everything. Measure your tallest mixers and biggest plates and look at your appliances and accessories. Visit storage specialists Blum.com for tips on how to organise your space.

#### **PUT SAFETY FIRST**

If you have small children, the most efficient and safe layout will route traffic away from your oven and hob. Make the fridge accessible, too, but don't place it at the heart of the room, so kids can get drinks without coming into the cooking zone.

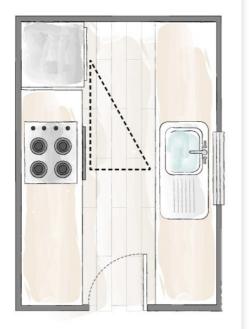
#### **GALLEY**

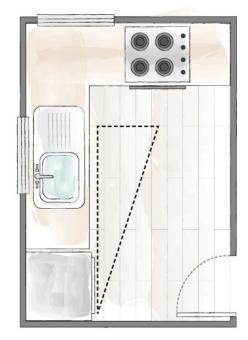
#### In a long narrow room, units typically sit along one or both sides in a straight line.

Avoid wall units in a narrow space to prevent the room feeling too claustrophobic and go for open shelving instead. Laying your flooring widthways can help to make the space appear wider, too.

Create a contemporary look using handleless units and fit semiand fully-integrated appliances where you can. Arrange your working triangle so that your hob and fridge are not directly opposite each other - that way people won't end up working back to back if they're cooking together.

Finally, banish clutter by investing in smart internal storage solutions such as multi-layer drawers, pullout racks and pan dividers to keep things super organised – which is essential in a small space.



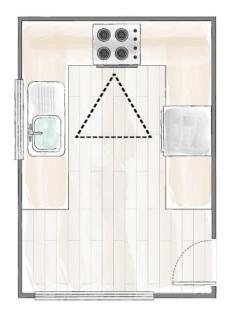


#### L-SHAPED

#### This layout offers lots of flexibility without feeling too enclosed.

Keep an open feel in smaller spaces by placing wall cupboards along just one side of the room. Ensure there's plenty of worktop space on either side of the sink and cooker, too, and think about placing them on different walls, but not too far away from each other. Utilise cabinets in the corners with special pull-out kidney-shaped units or carousels.

If space allows, plan in somewhere where you can sit down and eat or have a cup of coffee. A small table or raised breakfast bar at the end of the longest run of units can easily become a place for informal dining. To finish, fit task lighting over the prep areas and supplement light from any windows with spots and downlighters.



#### **U-SHAPED**

#### Allowing for units on three walls, this shape offers plenty of work space.

Reduce traffic in the heart of the kitchen, particularly if you have young children, by placing the fridge to one side of the entrance to the room. Use just two sides of the room for your working triangle to keep it compact in a large space. Alternatively, consider placing one element of your triangle, such as the sink, on a central island (see below).

Allow for lots of worktop space between your cooker and sink if they are on the same run – at least 80cm is preferable. You can also maximise your storage by adding clever solutions in both corner cupboards. And opt for informal dining in larger rooms with a peninsula at one end of a long run.

### WHAT IS THE WORKING TRIANGLE?

The working triangle dictates where the hob, fridge freezer and sink sit in your kitchen and is an important consideration to reduce the distance you have to walk when cooking. You move between these three features all the time when preparing meals, so they need to be in a practical arrangement and within easy reach of one another. Ideally, the sides of the triangle created by these three points should be no more than 2.7m

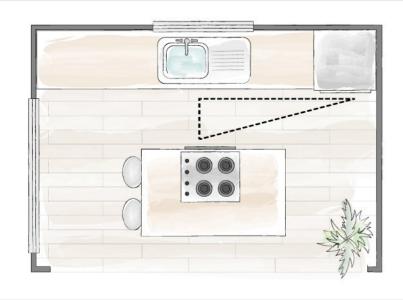
#### **ISLAND**

#### An island provides extra work space, and creates a tighter working triangle.

Allow space around an island so you can fully open units – a workable minimum is 90cm, but 120cm is preferable. Don't forget to account for drop-down doors on dishwashers and ovens, too.

Consider making your island work even harder by adding a prep sink, dishwasher or wine fridge. On one side, a worktop overhang can create a breakfast bar with adjustable bar stools.

If you have small children, opt for curved corners. An island can also act as a barrier to the cooking area, keeping kids and guests out of the chef's way.



#### **OPEN-PLAN**

#### Great for kitchen-diners, this layout has plenty of room for tables, chairs and relaxing seating.

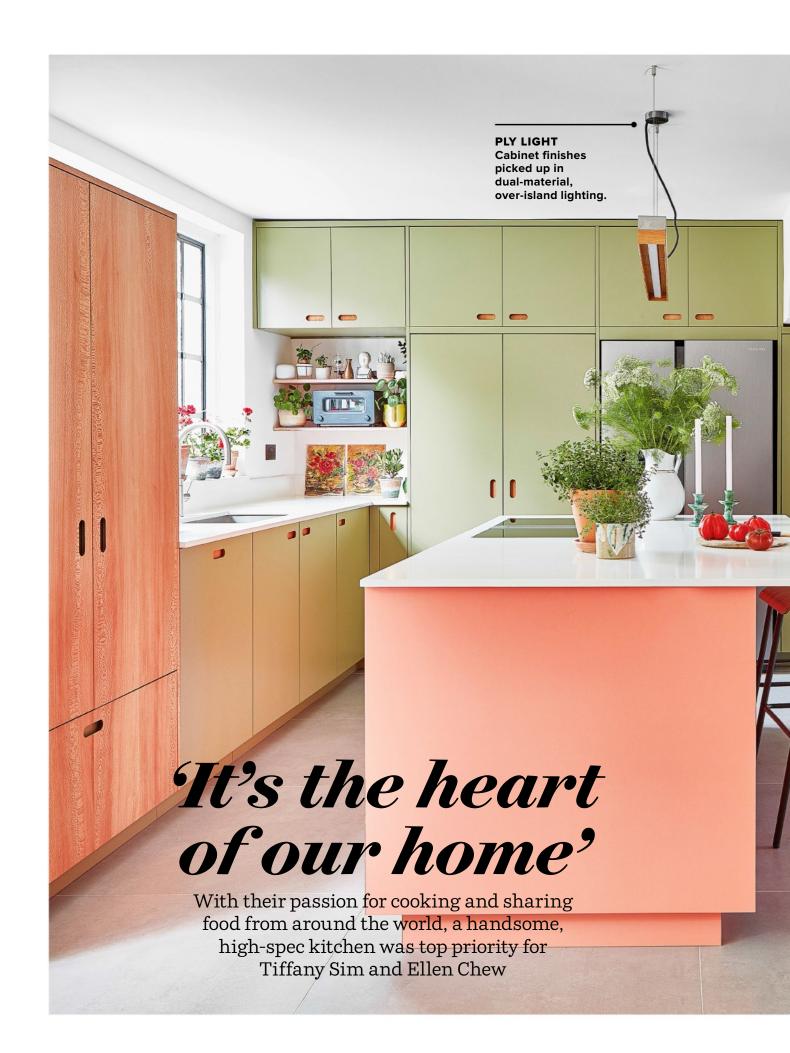
Zone it by separating the functions of the room – cooking, eating and relaxing – using different but cohesive materials and textures to create distinct areas. It's important to choose quiet appliances, too, as it can be frustrating trying to have a conversation over the sound of a noisy extractor or washing machine.

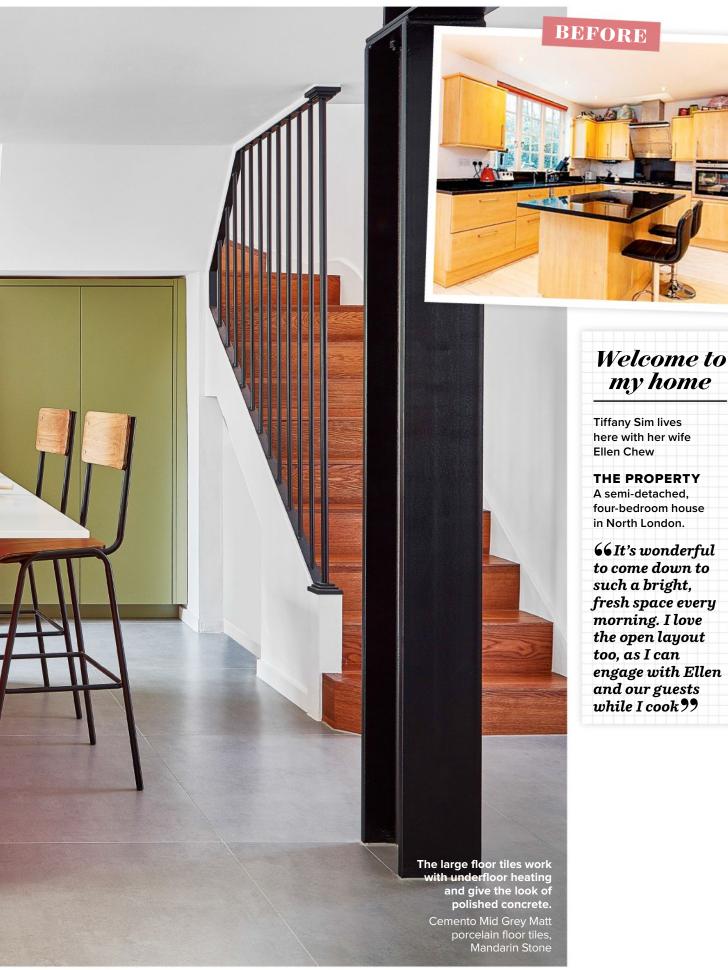
Ensure cooking smells don't linger by fitting a powerful extractor, and ensure the whole space is heated efficiently. A layout with a stone or porcelain floor might be best suited to underfloor heating.

Place storage carefully. For instance, keeping china and cutlery near your dining table will save time when laying it.

66 Innovative layouts include 'broken plan' designs to allow for multi-generational living, as well as compact solutions that help maximise smaller spaces, especially in city apartments 99







to come down to fresh space every the open layout engage with Ellen and our guests

#### **HOW TIFFANY AND ELLEN DID IT**

'Cooking and eating with friends and family is a huge part of our life. We chose this house mainly for the open-plan ground floor, which combines the living, dining and kitchen areas in one sociable space. We were happy with the original kitchen's position, but the tatty units had to go. We wanted a fresh, modern look, some top-of-therange cooking equipment, and a bigger centre island. I also wanted a streamlined finish. with everything hidden inside

cabinets. I found Pluck on Instagram (@pluckldn). Its team listened to our ideas and worked with us to accommodate musthaves like the commercialgrade combi-oven. Fitting the cabinetry took about five days and cost around £3,000. It took another fortnight for templating and fitting the worktops. We're both delighted with the new kitchen. It functions really well and the mix of natural wood and colour is gorgeous. It's easily the best part of the house.'

**BELOW** 'People cluster around the island for drinks and get involved in cooking.'

London Plane veneer birch plywood cabinets, Brockwell Moss and Ritzy laminated birch plywood units, both Pluck Kitchens



#### KITCHEN PROJECT



**ABOVE** The lower section of the larder, for dry goods and condiments, is a 'drawer within a drawer'. It maximises space, and ensures small items don't get lost. Plus, the cabinet handles are simple cut-outs, so there's nothing protruding.



**ABOVE** 'The tall wall units have nifty pocket doors, which are a great solution. They hide everything, then slide right out of the way at the sides when I want to access the contents.'

FEATURE ANNABELLE GRUNDY PHOTOGRAPHS MALCOLM MENZIES

Nile Classic White Quartz worktops, Planet Marble

**RIGHT 'Now we have** our boiling water tap, we wouldn't be without it! It reduces clutter on the worktops and it's so convenient, especially as my cooking often requires instant hot water.'

Flex stainless steel boiling water tap, Quooker

#### WHAT I'VE LEARNED

**66**Planning the small details took time but paid off. Our kitchen company designed the storage around what we had, and the way I like to cook. Now everything is on hand and has its own place 99



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What is plywood?
Formed from thin,
compacted layers of wood,
modern plywood is lightweight,
yet strong. The secret to its
strength comes from crosslamination, whereby the grain
direction of each layer is alternated.

Which wood is best?
For interior furniture,
hardwood-based ply is best.
Birch-faced ply is the most
popular and has a natural pale
finish that suits a Scandi vibe.
You can also get oak and walnutfaced for a darker finish. Douglas
fir, though technically a softwood,
has a very tight grain with few
knots making it a practical
choice in kitchens, too. Bamboo
plywood is another option
that's gaining ground for its
impressive eco-credentials.

Do I have to leave it bare? While some people love the utilitarian simplicity of uncoloured plywood for both carcasses and doors, it can feel a bit bland. You can use wood stains, paints, veneers and melamine to introduce colour.

Although less pricey than oak-veneered particleboard, compared to melamine-faced MDF and chipboard, plywood costs more per sheet – but it is less labour intensive to process.

What about maintenance? Plywood is naturally water-resistant, but to achieve a low-maintenance, wipe-clean surface it is usually sealed with a clear protective lacquer or oil. Request marine-grade plywood for areas around the sink.

**66** Plywood is more expensive than other composite sheet materials, like MDF, but the durability and environmental benefits far outweigh the extra cost **99** 



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BRIGHT AND SASSY

Zesty orange brings cheer.

Birch plywood with Levante laminate by Formica and Douglas Fir plywood, Koivu **TREND** 

## Extreme minimalism

Choose modern, pared-down cabinetry in softer shades for a clean, contemporary design

f your tastes run to fuss-free kitchen design with plenty of storage to hide unsightly clutter, then a contemporary flat door or handleless design could be for you. Looking as good in period properties as they do in new-builds, minimalist door designs are perfect for creating flexible, striking kitchens.

FIX ON A FINISH While high-gloss designs are still popular, matt finishes are coming to the fore, giving a subtle, elegant appearance to modern cabinetry. If your room is compact, think about using splashbacks in pale, sparkling composites or laminates, to help bounce light around the room. GO HANDLELESS Large kitchens with plenty of drawers and cupboards can easily start to look like a mass of handles. Push-open and electronically controlled doors allow you to dispense with handles but, if you still prefer a handle of some sort, try doors and drawers with recessed J-pull channels at the top or the side. **COLOUR OPTIONS** The latest matt finishes create a softer look and feel.

so you can choose darker colours without them overwhelming a space. Banks of cabinets in a soft neutral work well as the backdrop to a bolder island that packs a design punch. **BRANCH OUT** Contemporary kitchens are increasingly popular in open-plan designs and many companies now provide storage and designs for office areas, media spaces for TVs and book storage. Incorporating these at the planning stage will ensure the finished space is consistent from one zone to another. **BANISH CLUTTER** The modern linear look is best served by organised worktops and surfaces. Keep kitchen clutter to a minimum and plump for the best internal storage your budget will allow. **KEEP IT WARM** Modern high-gloss cabinetry can feel rather clinical, so add in a few timber touches or a colourful splashback to add texture and warmth. Try combining old and new pieces: in a living/dining kitchen, for instance, mid-century pieces will help soften the look without making it feel too traditional.

66 Combining understated elegance with ultimate functionality, the trend for linear minimalist kitchens with matt cabinetry is proving very popular ">>



#### **KITCHEN TREND**

## IDEAL HOME expert tip

Incorporate drawers as well as cupboards – you can store more and it's easier to find what you want

.. .

#### Keep in trim

Create contrast in your design by incorporating plinths and J-pull handle interiors in gentle timber tones.

#### BUY THE KEY PIECES

NaturalSHEER kitchen, Tomas Kitchen Living

#### **KITCHEN TREND**



#### **▼IN LINE**

In a compact, U-shaped kitchen, handleless cabinetry is the perfect solution, allowing you to make use of every inch without worrying about clashing handles catching on each other. Pure kitchen cabinetry, John Lewis of Hungerford

#### **HEART OF GLASS** ►

A bold olive green glass splashback is a sleek yet cheery alternative to tiles in a modern grey kitchen. Soho Gloss Light Grey kitchen, Benchmarx Kitchens and Joinery

#### **▼ MIX IT UP**

A modern linear design can look beautiful in a barn-style setting, complementing exposed masonry walls and stone flooring. Limehouse kitchen, Neptune







**66** For surfaces, consider the way sleek laminates, elegant composites and solid wood draw the eye and also invite people to touch, creating a lasting impression >>







Ultra-thin composite worktops work beautifully with handleless doors. To make a real statement, use an extra-deep profiled worktop in a bold colour to create a contrast with the units below.

FOR YOU

- Make sure you test your handle-pulls before you buy. Some recessed or J-pull designs aren't very deep and can be difficult to open, particularly if you have long fingernails.
- Door fronts on some heavy built-in appliances such as dishwashers can be tricky to open without handles. Look out for models from companies such as Miele that feature push-open mechanisms to make things easy.

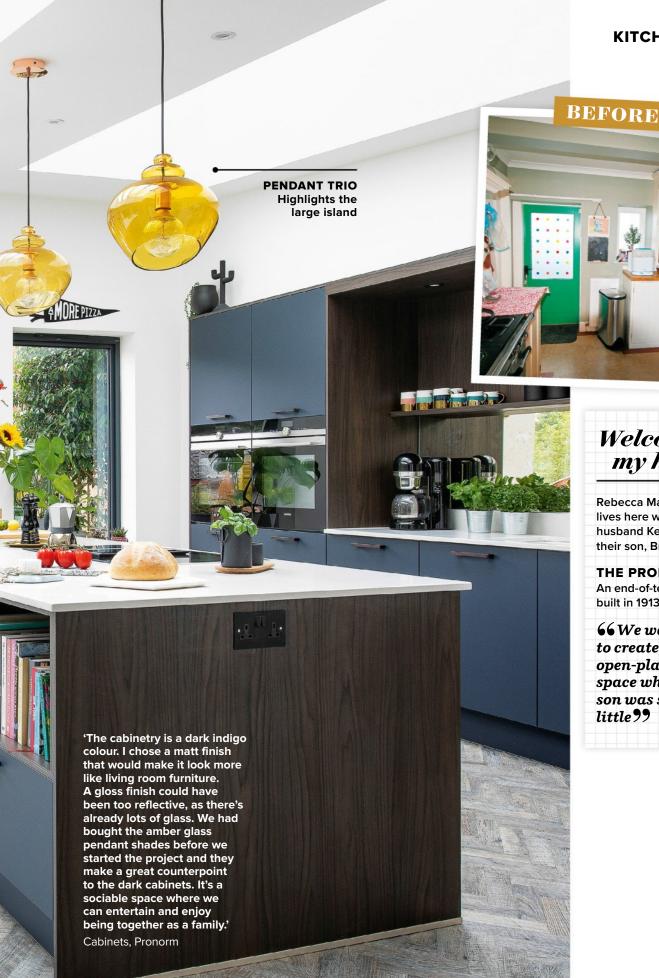
◆ The alignment of doors is particularly important

in a linear design as it's obvious if they're even slightly out. Make sure that the door hinges and drawer runners are sturdy to prevent them dropping from repeated use.

- Opt for built-in appliances where you can as it will help maintain the seamless appearance. If you're arranging several appliances in a bank of cabinetry ensure they all line up by purchasing from one manufacturer.
- Add lights around the plinth of an island to make it appear as if it's floating or add mood lighting with strips of LEDs below units and shelving.







#### Welcome to my home

Rebecca MacDonald lives here with her husband Kenny and their son, Bryce.

#### THE PROPERTY

An end-of-terrace house, built in 1913, in Glasgow.

66 We wanted to create a fun, open-plan family space while our son was still little 99

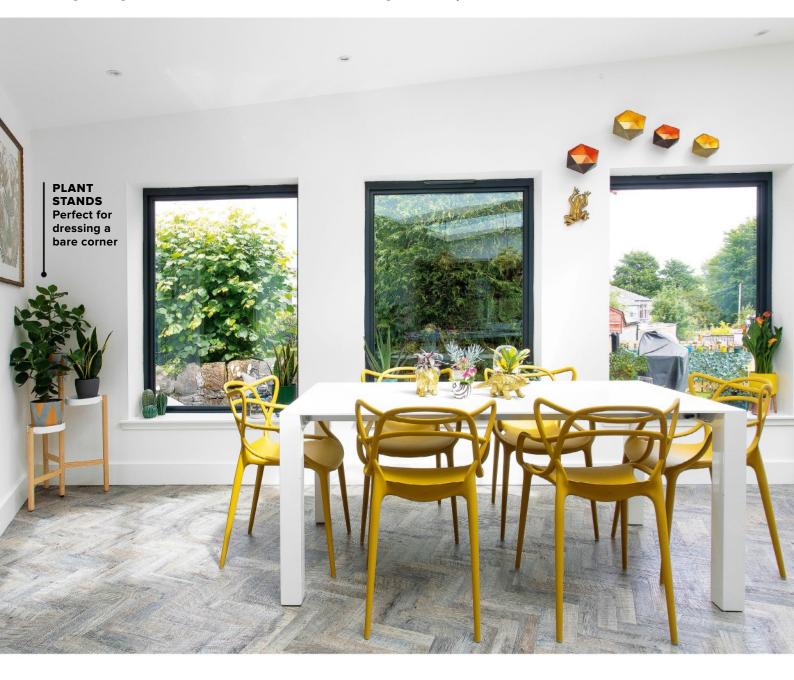
#### HOW REBECCA AND KENNY DID IT

'We bought the house in 2013 and lived with it as it was until our son was born in 2016. when we realised that we wanted it to be more open and spacious. You could not see the garden from the kitchen, and we wanted something more contemporary and less formal. We worked with a local architect. Karen Parry, and in 2018 extended out into the garden. The new space has lots of glazing, so is full of natural

light. There's also underfloor heating – so no need for radiators. which saves a lot of space. Because the room doubles as a living space and entertaining area, it was important that it didn't look too "kitcheny", so we added artwork, statement lighting and fun decorative accessories. The project was ambitious it took nearly five months - but we are delighted; it's so welcoming and easy to live in.'

**BELOW** 'Thanks to the bifolds and the roof light, the kitchen is so light you feel like you are outside. You get a hint of the garden wherever you are. The flooring runs through from the hall to create flow.'

Table, Made. Masters chairs, Kartell. LVT herringbone flooring in Caste oak, Moduleo





**ABOVE** 'The boiling water tap is extremely efficient for cooking. We chose one with a custom powder-coated finish.'

Worktop in Snowy Ibiza, Silestone. Sublime granite inset sink, Blanco. FlexTap, Quooker. Similar splashback, Glass Splashbacks Direct



couple went for a pop-up design. 'It's vented and extremely powerful. Good ventilation is important for entertaining and an overhead extractor would look too utilitarian.'

Hob with downdraft extractor. Siemens

storage for cutlery, crockery and utensils. We've found that handle-free doors collect grubby fingerprints, so we chose metal handles that add a variation in texture to the room.'

Grace yellow glass pendant shades, Heal's



#### WHAT I'VE LEARNED

**66** Things cost more than you think they will. Small essentials really add up and the larger essentials are pricey if they're good quality and you want them to last 99

#### **HOT WATER TAPS**

Don't wait for the kettle to boil; hot water taps deliver in an instant and help keep your kitchen countertop free from unnecessary clutter

Instant boiling water taps are the biggest kitchen innovation since the dishwasher. Once purchased, many homeowners vow never to buy a kettle again.

Are the worth the hype? If you're short of time, or impatient, instant hot water taps are definitely for you. And it's not just about making hot drinks. Boiling pasta, rinsing cooked rice, sterilising baby bottles; you'll be surprised how many uses you'll discover.

How do they work? An electric hot water tank is connected to your mains water supply. It heats and stores the water ready for use as soon as you turn on the tap. Most units include a water filter that needs to be replaced every six months.

Are they affordable? The initial outlay is undoubtedly higher than a kettle. But daily running costs should work out far lower than boiling a kettle repeatedly. having a hot water tap also means you should save water

too. You only use what you need, whereas kettles are often over-filled. Look for companies that offer free installation to save the expense of a plumber.

What types are there? A basic boiling water tap offers just that, but you can get 3-in-1 models, that also deliver regular hot and cold water. This is a neater solution if you only have space for one sink. For top-end designs, try Zip and add sparkling and pre-chilled water to the menu.

Are they safe? Yes, all have built-in childsafety measures. These range from double-click activation, specialist clips that lock the handle and key fobs required for activation that you can hide away.

Save time and space with an instant hot water tap

**66** If there isn't enough space to store the tank under your sink, worry not many hot water taps can be fitted with a two metre extension hose 99

#### **IDEAL HOME LOVES...** ALL-IN-ONE TAPS



#### **LIGHT ALERT**

A red illuminated ring on the spout alerts when boiling water is dispensing.

Fusion Square, Quooker



#### **FUTURE PROOF**

Features two-stage safety preventing hot water dispersing accidentally.

Signature, Qettle



#### **DITCH BOTTLES**

Delivers dual filtered drinking water, alongside boiling and hot.

Geo, Rangemaster



#### **MODERN DESIGN**

A minimalist shape and on-trend black finish will cut a sharp silhouette.

Omni Contemporary, Franke

#### **BEST FOR...**

#### TOP TECH

Pure H2O makes the Quatreau SmartTap with touchscreen controls for instant boiling, chilled, sparkling, hot and cold - all ultrafiltered, naturally.

#### **SERIOUS CHEFS**

Abode's Pronteau Professional has a restaurant-style flexible hose that's great for cleaning sinks. Boiling water comes out separately for safety.

#### **COLOUR CHOICE**

Zip's HydoTap Platinum range comes in finishes to suit all, including gold, rose gold, gunmetal and platinum, plus black and chrome.

FEATURE LINDA CLAYTON PHOTOGRAPH FUTURECONTENTHUB.COM

### Make it work for you

#### **ROOF WINDOWS**

Want to up the light levels in your kitchen? Find out if installing new roof windows could work for you...

Roof windows can transform a dark or dingy room, especially in the mornings. While perfect for loft conversions, roof windows can also be used to brighten up any room with no void between ceiling and roof, such as extensions with flat roofs and mansard rooms.

What is a roof window? Many people use the words skylight, rooflight and roof window interchangeably. But, according to British Standards, roof windows must be installed in the same orientation and 'in plane' with the surrounding roof, typically at a minimum 15 degree pitch and weathered into the roof using a skirt or flashing.

#### Which opening method should I choose?

The main options are centre pivot or top hung. Centre pivot can be swung around to clean on both sides, and is the least expensive option. Top hung windows offer uninterrupted views when open and suit rooms where headspace is restricted (i.e. by very low sloping ceilings).

Are there downsides? Roof windows come in standard sizes and shapes, can be bought off-the-shelf, and are pretty affordable and easy to install. The main drawback is limited scale, particularly if you want an expanse of glass.

Any other options? Rooflights and lanterns are much bigger and are used when frameless expanses of glass are required. They are commonly installed using an upstand or kerb system that supports the product and keeps it watertight. If there is a void between your ceiling and roof, consider a sun tunnel.

Do I need permission? Standard roof windows often come under permitted development rights. Check with your local planning office.

**66** Help to minimise condensation by positioning your roof windows directly above a heat source, such as a heated towel rail or a radiator **99** 



#### **EXPERT ADVICE**

From small skylights that don't open to huge glass roofs perfect for star gazing, Velux is the go-to provider of rooflight expertise.

#### **WIDE CHOICE**

Roof Depot has a large range of flat glass lights, roof lanterns and polycarbonate roof domes to suit every budget and look.

#### **BUDGET OPTIONS**

Rooflite make high-standard windows, using quality materials at lower prices. There's also a next-day delivery service.

#### **IDEAL HOME LOVES...** CLEVER DESIGNS



This roof window doubles as a fire escape.

Fire Escape roof window, Wickes



LANTERN PARADE

A small lantern-style rooflight will boost the impression of space.

> Pyramid rooflight, Roof Maker



Stack two rather than buy one outsized window.

Centre pivot windows, Velux





#### **HOW JENNY AND STEVE DID IT...**

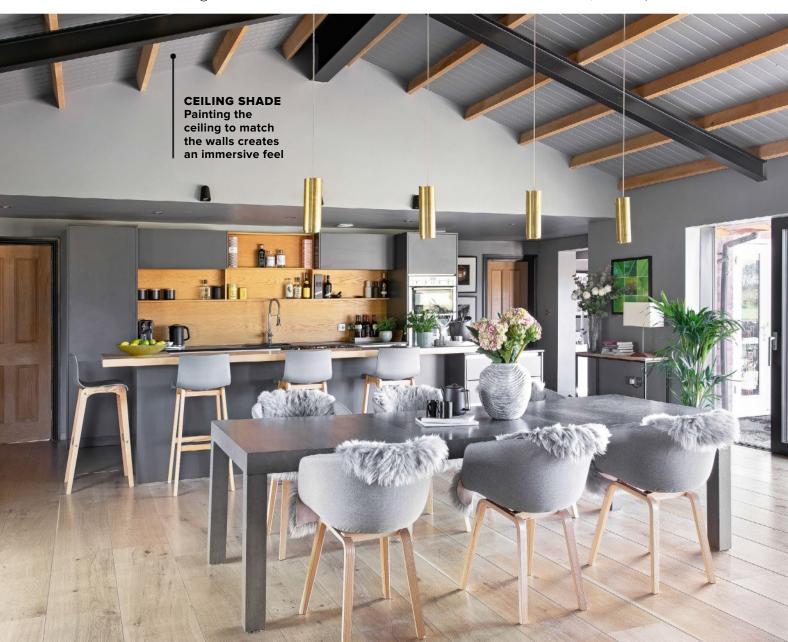
'We bought our home on impulse. Steve saw it for sale at 9pm one night and had an offer accepted the next day. It was in a perfect location and had the potential for an extension. We then had to wait a couple of years for planning permission, as it's in a conservation area.

We wanted to create a large space with character that would complement the existing building. So, although we love clean lines, the design and the

materials are more organic than contemporary. The build took a year. Steve fitted the kitchen and laid the flooring himself. We bought oak carcasses and added bespoke cabinet doors. His DIY skills extend to every detail: he made the beautiful lighting by rolling metal into simple sculptural forms. We've since set up a website to sell his lighting online, called Arcform (studioarcform.com).'

**BELOW** 'We saw a charcoal kitchen in a magazine and used it as a starting point. We love being creative. It would have felt like cheating simply to buy a kitchen!'

Similar kitchen, Naked Kitchens. Dining chairs, Mmilo. Sheepskins, Wayfair



#### KITCHEN PROJECT



**ABOVE** 'The lighting hanging over the dining table, created by Steve, is a take on the classic cylinder pendant. Each one is rolled from a single sheet of brass and designed with a gentle spiral, giving it a unique look.'

Cylinder pendant lights in brass, Arcform



**ABOVE** 'The sink area includes an integrated dishwasher and a hidden waste and recycling system.'

One-and-a-half bowl sink, Franke. Industrial kitchen spray tap, Paini. Integrated Hotpoint LTF 11M121 C dishwasher, Appliances Direct

RIGHT 'A gas hob was a must-have as we are both keen cooks. The black worktop is a quartz composite called Cinza Letano by Unistone.'

Series 6 PPQ7A6B90 gas hob, Bosch. Cinza Letano worktop, Unistone

#### WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

**66** That we could create our dream kitchen on a budget by going to different suppliers for different parts. It's been timeconsuming and hard work, but the end results are worth it! 99



## Industrial Vihes

Mix and match a variety of materials, colours and textures for a fresh take on a modern classic

1 choing the look of New York loft-style apartments, with exposed brickwork, reclaimed flooring and steel beams, industrial style takes kitchens back to basics. Pick and choose a few key pieces to help translate the trend to modern living.

**CABINET CHOICES** The latest manufacturing processes mean it's possible to produce lightweight cabinet doors, that have the look and texture of concrete or rough stone. Alternatively combine steel or highgloss cabinets in natural tones with industrial fittings, such as butler-style sinks and copper pipes and taps. **DURABLE DETAILS** Choose materials that reflect industrial heritage - zinc-topped tables, wirework storage and wrought iron light fittings. Too many industrial materials can produce hard lines, so soften the look with materials that have patina and texture such as distressed timber and natural stone. **SPLASH OUT ON SPLASHBACKS** 

Metro tiles are a popular choice with industrial cupboards and are good if you don't have, or want, exposed brick walls. For more colour, opt for

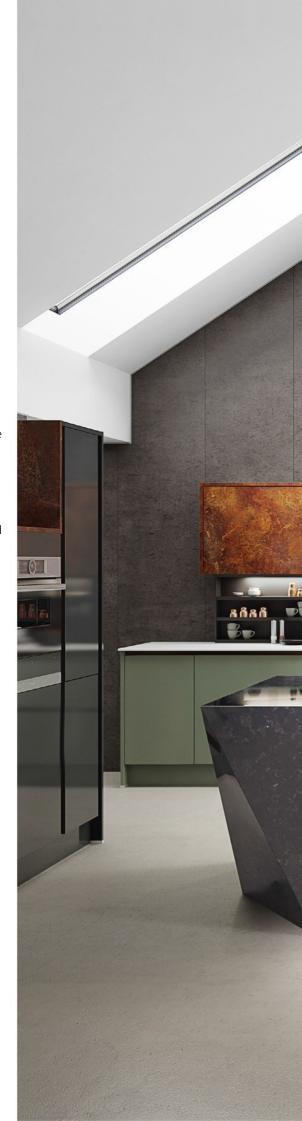
Victorian-style encaustic tiles. If you prefer white tiles, jazz them up with grout in a contrasting tone to accentuate the pattern.

**BE A SHADE BRAVER Add** splashes of bold colour to prevent the look becoming too factory-like. Navy, olive greens and mustard yellows all work well with rough-luxe materials such as concrete worktops. Take inspiration from unfinished plaster by using on-trend tones of soft blush and rose to create a feature wall that's in keeping with the look. Farrow & Ball's Setting Plaster is a good choice.

**LIGHTING OPTIONS** Vintage lighting from Eastern European factories is perfect for this look. Companies such as Skinflint have opaline glass and restored military metal pendants from the Czech Republic or try the high street if your budget is tight. Hang in threes above islands or dining tables.

**BE A MASTER CHEF** A gleaming stainless steel range style cooker is perfect for an industrial kitchen. Pick one with a gas top if you're after a classic feel or opt for a model with a sleek induction hob. Hide appliances behind cupboard doors if you can or create a utility area for laundry.

66 For a bolder design, adding pattern to surfaces and textures to floors and walls is an easy way to make your kitchen stand out??





#### **KITCHEN TREND**



#### **<b>⊲** GO ROUGH

Sawn-oak timber cabinetry and distressed leather work well together and look great with oversized factory-style pendant lights in steel.

Bespoke painted and sawn-oak kitchen, The Main Company

#### ACCESSORISE >

Pair concrete-look cabinets with matt handleless units in on-trend teal. Add retro furniture with wroughtiron elements and industrial cage lighting. Otto cabinetry in Bespoke Painted Teal and Concrete, Burbidge

▼ FAKING IT Faux marble composite worksurfaces are a great choice as they are much more hard wearing and stain resistant than the real thing.

Litchfield Rye Oak doors with Strata Quartz Statuario splashback, Alchemy







**66**A faux marble worksurface implies the inherent veining and beautiful pattern associated with natural stone but features the practicality of a quartz composite ">





Leave original features such as extractor ducting

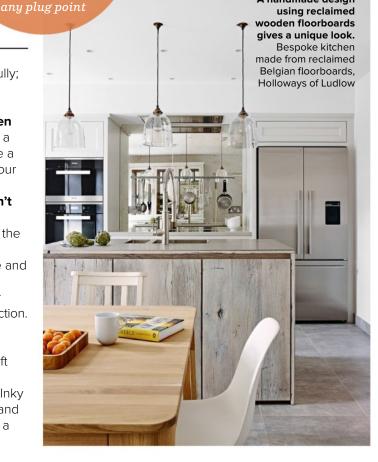
FOR YOU

and steel joists exposed. Uncovering an original brick wall is one way to achieve the look.

- ♦ For maximum impact pick a lay-on slab door or unfussy panel if you're choosing a textured cupboard door design.
- If you're opting for a patterned worktop such as granite or faux marble, or one with a rough finish, then keep the profile edges simple.
- You can emphasise coloured cabinetry by adding in wall units with frosted glass doors.
- For a budget-friendly industrial twist, whitewash original floorboards but

pick your shade carefully; a soft off-white will improve with age.

- Consider scale when you're using colour - a larger kitchen can take a much bigger hit of colour than a smaller one.
- If your space doesn't feature brick walls or steel beams, replicate the look by adding faux textures such as stone and timber with a feature wallpaper – Wallpaper Direct has a good selection.
- Choose colourful, patterned fabrics for curtains, blinds and soft furnishings for a quick texture and colour fix. Inky blue, warm terracotta and mustard yellow create a warm and earthy feel.



**-EATURE** YSANNE BROOKS **PHOTOGRAPH** NICHOLAS YARSLEY

A handmade design

## Make it work for you

## **CONCRETE FLOORING**

Love the pared-back look of industrially-inspired concrete flooring? Gen up on the options and find out if it ticks every box with this guide

Hardwearing, easy to clean and dust-mite resistant, it's little wonder polished concrete flooring is so popular. The industrial look is very on trend too, plus it holds the heat well so works brilliantly with underfloor heating.

What is polished concrete? Flooring made from concrete, left in its raw natural state or coloured then polished and sealed to create a nonporous surface. Diamondpolishing tools are used and floors are commonly finished to a grit level of 800, 1500 or 3000 - the higher the grit, the shinier the floor. It's cheaper if levelled by machine and more expensive when trowelled by hand.

How is it installed? Techniques vary but most are poured in a single layer. Next day expansion cuts are sawn into the floor to ensure shrinkage cracks are in a neat line. These are then filled with an expandable, colour-matched sealant before the floor is cleaned, polished and sealed.

Does it take long? It depends on the size and temperature of the room, plus the installation method, but allow seven to 10 days for a standard floor.

Will it crack? That's always a possibility. Shrink-reducing additives and anti-crack reinforcing, plus the expansion-cut method, help prevent larger cracks. Sudden temperature changes are the main cause so it's important to introduce heating slowly.

Is it easy to maintain? A daily sweep is best, plus a weekly wet mop. Any spills must be cleaned up quickly or the surface could absorb it, and sticky substances should be removed using a non-scratch implement.

**66** Choose a specialist installer with a quality track record. The finished floor should offer good depth of tone and lustre, with a hard-wearing finish 99



### **COLOUR CHOICE**

Steyson's 50 years experience has made it the go-to for interior designers. Bespoke colour-matching is a speciality.

#### **ECO CRED**

Lazenby makes concrete using high proportions of recycled materials, and sources materials from local suppliers to reduce its carbon footprint.

#### **EASY** INSTALLATION

The Resin Floor Co offers polished concrete, poured resin and Micro Concrete floorings that are much thinner so require less upheaval to install.

## **IDEAL HOME LOVES CONCRETE EFFECTS**



Tiles that look weathered but feel warm and tactile underfoot.

Pasadena luxury vinyl tiles, Tile Mountain



Matt finish porcelain tiles are suitable for inside and outside use.

Planate Fossil Grey tiles, Walls and Floors



#### WARM LAMINATE

Easy-fit laminate with embossed surface and bevelled edge.

> Colours Leggiero concrete effect laminate, B&Q







## Welcome to my home

Ruth Garey lives here with her husband Ed and their children, Holly and Stanley.

## THE PROPERTY

A four-bedroom terraced house in north London.

66 The former kitchen was so dark at the back, but now we enjoy having constant light beaming into the house! 99

Fills space

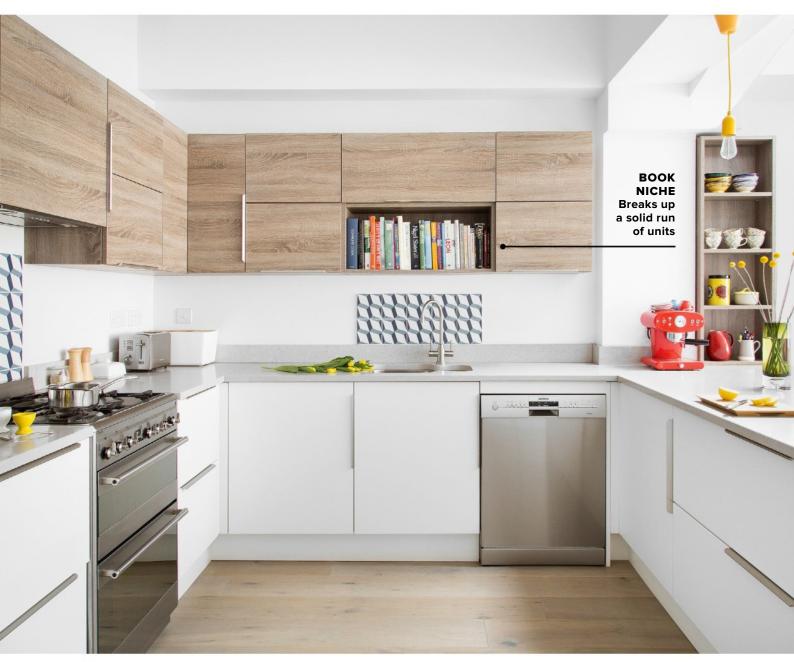
that would otherwise be wasted at the end of a run of units

## **HOW RUTH AND ED DID IT**

'We lived in our house for five years before updating the kitchen, once we had a better idea of what would work for us. It was at the back of the house. with a separate dining area behind it in the dark centre of the house, which was a dumping ground for coats and toys. The wall between the front living room and the dining room had been removed, so we reinstated it, then merged the dining room with the kitchen and added a side extension to create a big, openplan space. We also managed to squeeze in a loo and a storage area. We reused our appliances, as they were fairly new, and our dining chairs because we still liked them and didn't want everything to look too shiny and new. The work took five months. so we moved out for three, then moved back and cooked on the barbecue for two! It's the perfect living and entertaining area - with no wasted space.'

**BELOW** 'We were aiming for a relaxed family feel, rather than anything too sleek and stark, so we went for a combination of matt white and woodgrain units.'

Nordlux Funk Yellow pendant kits, Sparks Direct. Ranger floor in Wyre Oak, The Floor Shop



## KITCHEN PROJECT



**ABOVE Lift-up cabinet** doors don't intrude into the preparation space when standing open.

Springfield Light Oak and White Supermat cabinets, Mereway



**ABOVE** 'We felt a freestanding island would encourage the children to run around it - while the peninsula works better to separate the kitchen area.'

FEATURE RENÉE GREEN/LISA FAZZANI STYLING RENÉE GREEN PHOTOGRAPHS DAVID GILES

Hambledon oak bar stools, Garden Trading, are similar. Divinity White quartz worksurface, Jetstone

RIGHT 'We were looking for a fun, colourful feature for the wall and our architect suggested modular cube shelves. They're the first thing people notice!'

Shelves, Cubit. Besta units, Ikea. Try Charles Eames-style chairs, Direct Home Living

## WHAT I'VE LEARNED

**66** You'll spend more than your initial budget. We put together a detailed budget once we got to the tendering stage and came in roughly on target, but had no idea of costs at the start 99





## Contemporary handleless

Integrated handles are perfect for those seeking a modern, pared-back kitchen design

ith a multitude of colours and finishes now available. glossy white is no longer the only go-to option for handle-free cabinetry. Although it's still popular, tastes are expanding to include choices in a range of styles from painted Shaker to clean-lined finishes.

**OPEN AND SHUT** Handleless doors take one of two main forms: they either incorporate J- or U-shaped inserts along the sides or tops of the doors, or they have completely flat doors, featuring manual or electric push-to-open mechanisms. **KEEP IN LINE** A design that's too asymmetrical, uneven, or that simply doesn't line up well, will be much more obvious in a flat-fronted, handleless style than in any other, so it's wise to take extra care and time with the design and fitting. If you're planning to have a floor-to-ceiling bank of cabinetry featuring several appliances, then be ultra careful when measuring up and consider buying all the appliances from one supplier

so the look is consistent. Most manufacturers now have co-ordinated styles for handles and controls across their entire range of built-in appliances for exactly this reason. **KEEP IT SLEEK** Investing in integrated appliances to sit behind cupboard doors will help to keep the look clean. But take care when choosing a fully integrated dishwasher, as the door might be difficult to open without a handle, so check with your supplier first. Some companies, such as Miele, make appliances with push-open mechanisms. FINISHING TOUCH While high-gloss cabinets are still as popular as ever, doors featuring matt finishes can provide an elegant, subtly textured appearance that will add interest, and the latest designs are even fingerprint-resistant to avoid grubby marks. An ultra-thin worktop or one with a shark-edge profile in the same colour as the units will keep the look seamless. Good lighting is also key and adding lights to plinths will help cabinetry - particularly islands - appear as if they are floating.



## **KITCHEN TREND**





### KITCHEN TREND



## Back in black

Avoid fingerprint marks on your doors by investing in cabinetry with a clever print-free finish.

## **BUY THE KEY PIECES**

TouchFree black cabinetry with a lacquered finish, Neil Lerner



Worried about textured cabinets being too bold a statement? Go for a run of matt finish, too

## Relief package

Add interest to plain white doors with wall cabinets that feature a faceted, geometric pattern.

## BUY THE KEY PIECES

Herrestad faceted doors; Voxtorp doors; Pinnarp worktop, all Ikea

## Top it off

Terrazzo-style composites are right on trend and look stunning when paired with pale grey cabinetry.

## **BUY THE KEY PIECES**

Frozen Terra, Caesarstone. Integra Meteor kitchen, Magnet, is a similar style







## Welcome to my home

Louisa Pacifico lives here with her husband Doug.

#### THE PROPERTY

A 1920s semi in Beckenham, south London.

66 Instead of working in my home office, I'll often sit at the island. I love the garden view 🤊 🤊

# We gave traditional a trend-led twist'

**CEILING SPOTS** 

Multi-directional lighting for practical tasks

> Louisa and Doug Pacifico's new kitchen is an eclectic blend of contemporary elements, traditional materials and retro finds

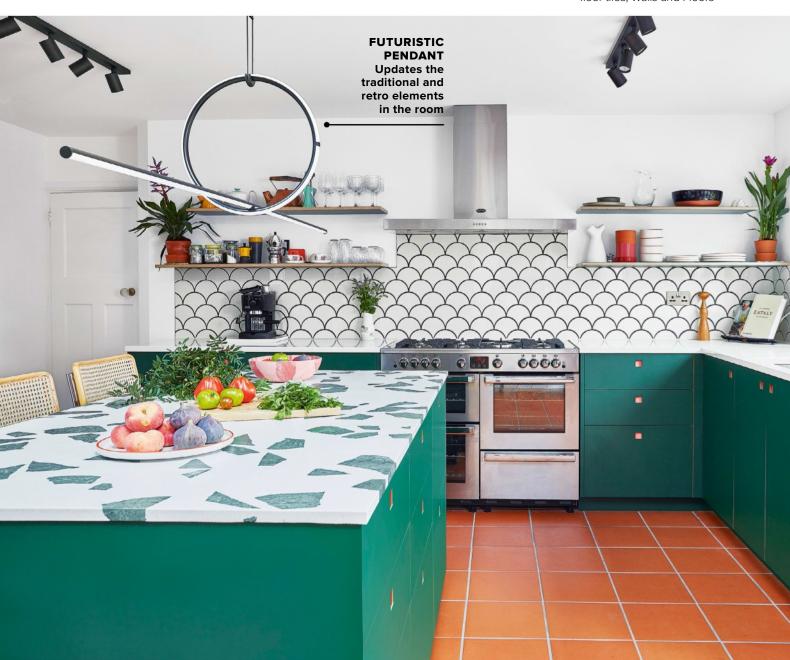
## **HOW LOUISA AND DOUG DID IT**

'We like a separate dining room for entertaining, so rather than knock through, we extended our long, narrow kitchen to the side. I'm a design consultant, so we saved on architect's fees and planned the whole renovation by ourselves. We like high-quality craftsmanship and lots of detail, so took our ideas to a local kitchen maker, Pluck. Everything's solid, thoughtfully designed and well made - both beautiful and

practical. Having invested in the cabinetry, I shopped around for appliances and, as we were buying them all from one place, I haggled to get the extractor half price. For four months we used makeshift facilities in the dining room and washed up in the bathroom. Fitting took three weeks and cost about £3,000. The new space is great for cooking and entertaining and it will stand the test of time.'

**BELOW** The island is a hard-working piece, with a breakfast bar on one side and drawers on the other for everyday crockery and glassware. 'The dishwasher's directly opposite, so it's really quick to unload.'

Andalucia Rojo terracotta floor tiles, Walls and Floors





**ABOVE** The units' door and drawer pulls have a contrasting coral interior that adds a pretty detail. Svren Natural Linen wall tiles. Topps Tiles



**RIGHT** Louisa chose plain worktops. 'I felt anything too distinctive would compete with the island top, which is a big feature of the room.' Compac Luna quartz worktop,

## WHAT I'VE LEARNED

**66**Be prepared to pay extra for anything that's not standard. It took our tiler three days to fit the unusual fan-shaped wall tiles, but I'd only budgeted for one 99

## **TERRAZZO WORKTOPS**

Often used for flooring in shopping centres and office blocks, terrazzo now brings colour and pattern into our kitchens

Originating in ancient Venice, terrazzo was invented as a way to use up marble waste - early upcycling at its best!

What is terrazzo? There are two types: cement and resin. Cement is the traditional form; it's durable and usually less expensive than resin. Modern resin terrazzo includes epoxy resin, binding aggregate and pigments. It's more colourful, less prone to cracking and staining and has a smoother finish - perfect for worktops.

## Why is terrazzo good for worktops?

It is low maintenance (cementbased needs annual resealing. resin doesn't) and can be cut for sinks, hobs and drainer grooves. However, most people choose terrazzo for its dynamic design. You can go as bold or calm as you like, match colours and even place chunks where you want them.

How do I buy terrazzo worktops? There are a few UK suppliers offering a range of standard

colours and designs. Order samples to view in your kitchen. For bespoke terrazzo, either visit the company or factory to choose marble chippings or have samples made to a brief.

How is it installed? Templates are made on site (by your builder or terrazzo supplier), then the worktops are cut and polished in the factory before being installed.

Is it expensive? Authentic terrazzo, whether it's cement- or resin-based can be pricey (though costs should always include templating and installation). Mineral or quartzbased terrazzo-style designs give a similar look and are usually half the price than real terrazzo. Try LG HiMac's solid surfaces or speckled terrazzo-look laminates.

**66** Avoid acid-based cleaners; use hot water and a neutral cleaning agent. Stubborn stains can usually be removed with a pad or brush 99



### **BEING CREATIVE**

Altrock handmade Louisa's island top in its east London workshop. The resin-based terrazzo can be made in virtually any colour or stone you want.

## **GOOD LOOKS**

Dzak's Marmoreal terrazzo, designed by Max Lamb, is a pre-cast resin-based surface supplied in set sizes that can be popped onto your units or cut to fit.

#### **TERRAZZO FANS**

Sign up to Diespeker & Co's Club Terrazzo, where the brand offers free samples, surplus from its bespoke orders.

## **IDEAL HOME LOVES...** TERRAZZO TILES



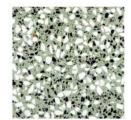
Get the look for less with low-stress porcelain tiles.

Ofelia tiles, Tile Mountain



Trad cement-based tiles with recycled marble pieces.

> Wild terrazzo in W2, **Mosaic Factory**



Comes in 1,200 pattern and colour options, plus bespoke.

> Sorrento terrazzo, Otto Tiles

## TRADITIONAL KITCHENS In this section **REAL HOME MAKEOVERS** Explore our six classic and timeless kitchen transformations and discover the real-life stories behind each one 1 **ESSENTIAL ADVICE We'll** explain everything you need to know about bespoke kitchens, larder cupboards, discreet cooker hoods and more. **TIMELESS TRENDS From** heritage styles to mixing old with new, these classic looks are quaranteed to last a lifetime KITCHEN HANDBOOK 53







building, and the muted design does that.'

### KITCHEN PROJECT



ABOVE This is the utility side of the room. 'There is a set of bins here and the drawers opposite have been designed to hold dishcloths and towels.' The boiling-water tap alongside the normal tap makes a kettle unnecessary.

Fridge-freezer, AO.com

EFFECT TILES Natural, rustic style for a rural property co. carre

> **ABOVE 'An efficient range** cooker has replaced the outdated Aga, so now we don't have to have the range on all the time. We don't have gas, so it's electric, and the three ovens give us loads of cooking space.'

Nexus range cooker, Rangemaster. Wall tiles, Tile Giant

RIGHT 'A full-height built-in pantry with adjustable shelving is a one-stop shop for whoever's cooking and it keeps the kitchen well organised and efficient.'

For similar drawer pulls, try More Handles. Walls in Egyptian Cotton matt emulsion, Dulux

## WHAT I'VE LEARNED

WHAT I'VE
66 There's
expense of
expense of
if you're conshell unit
achieve a
for less 99 66 There's no need to go to the expense of bespoke cabinetry; if you're creative with off-theshelf units it is possible to achieve a comparable look

## LARDER CUPBOARDS

Long for a elegant larder cupboard to sort all of your kitchen storage woes? Check out the need-to-knows before you invest in one...

The modern equivalent of a walk-in pantry, larder cupboards rank high on kitchen buyers' most-wanted lists.

## Should I go for a fitted or freestanding larder?

Fitted, aka integrated, larders are best bought as part of a new kitchen. Design-wise they work really well in streamlined, modern schemes and, because they fit tightly to adjoining furniture, they save some space. A freestanding larder is a great retro-fit solution to add storage with a more relaxed look.

Are they space-efficient? Larders give a lot of storage in a relatively small footprint. If space is tight, you can buy narrow pull-out larders at just 30cm-wide as part of a fitted kitchen. Narrow freestanding larders can become unstable or top-heavy, and are best secured to the wall at the back.

Are they just for food? Most people use larders for store cupboard foods - the idea being that you can gather all your ingredients in one trip and put away groceries quickly. They're also a good place to store baskets of veggies, unless it's near a radiator. But, it's also possible to drill cable holes in the back to

store countertop appliances and turn your larder into a dedicated baking, breakfast or tea-andcoffee station, away from the busy cooking zone.

Should I go for bespoke? Bespoke larders and some of the pricier off-the-peg numbers can be customised, so you could choose a marble or stone shelf for cheese and butter, integral lighting and sockets, and even have drawers engraved with your family's names.

## How can I really make the most of my larder?

You need to choose an internal configuration that works for your contents but, most importantly, everything must be easy to see and reach. Avoid deep shelves above head height; shallow or stepped shelves are far better; also consider pull-out shelves, drawers and door-hung spice racks.



**66** Larder cupboards are incredibly flexible – the best examples have a specific place for everything to ensure easy, intuitive use **99** 

## **IDEAL HOME LOVES...** FREESTANDING LARDERS



**DOUBLE UP** Large glass door cabinet with drawers, Out There Interiors



**SMART LINES** Rhubarb cupboard in scuffed grey, Loaf



**BEAUTY WITHIN** Eskdale larder unit in linen, Barker & Stonehouse



**DIVIDE AND RULE** Genoa larder unit in ovster arev. Willis & Gambier

## **BEST FOR...**

## **BUDGET BUSTING**

Howdens stocks pull-out larder systems in sleek brushed-steel to fit tall and base units - get your builder to grab you a bargain.

#### **SHAKER STYLE**

John Lewis of Hungerford has perfected the painted Shaker larder – choose doors with wire or perforated holes for extra folksy charm, and ventilation.

#### **TIGHT SPACES**

Colin Spicer's freestanding narrow larder cupboard has the double-door design of a standard larder, yet it's neat and compact.

## Make it work for you

## **DISCREET COOKER HOODS**

Not a fan of show-off options that dominate your kitchen? Take a more subtle approach with a design that works behind the scenes...

Built-in extractors blend into the kitchen when they're not being used, then clear the air without fuss. But they do need to go somewhere: the unit below the hob, wall cupboard above or in your ceiling void. Speak to your kitchen designer early on to ensure space is allocated.

Which are most discreet?
It depends on the hob location.
By a wall, the cheapest solution is a canopy or built-in hood in a wall cupboard above the hob. Telescopic versions pull out to capture more steam. No wall cupboards?
Consider a downdraught extractor by the hob to collect steam and odour closer to its source. Two-inone hob/extractors, which include a downdraught extractor in the hob, are a big trend, but still quite pricey.

## Are downdraught extractors effective?

Opinions vary. Hot air rises, so it takes powerful suction to change its natural course. A model that glides up out of the worktop to suck air near the top of pans is likely to capture more odours before they escape up to the ceiling.

 $Q^{\text{How can I extract above}}_{\text{my island?}}$ 

In-ceiling extractors are the newest way to vent above an island unit, and less obtrusive than a traditional island hood. Fitted flush to the ceiling, in the same colour, you'll barely see it. However, you do need decent space in the ceiling void to fit the motor and achieve a flush fit.

And with high ceilings? The extraction rate reduces on heights over 2.5m, not unusual in Georgian and Victorian properties, or new builds with vaulted ceilings. Bringing the in-ceiling extractor closer to the hob by building it into a bulkhead is less discreet but still keeps the extraction out of the line of sight.

All integrated extractors are available in ducted and recirculating versions – many work with both. Ducting out is preferable as odours are removed rather than filtered and returned to the room. However, recirculating technology now offers better odour reduction, longer-lasting filters and easier installation, so don't rule it out.

**66**On an intensive setting, your cooker hood should be able to completely change the air in the kitchen area 12 times per hour **99** 



Westin's innovative 360 system uses technology like NASA's, and is set to revolutionise the air purification abilities of recirculating models.

## ONLINE ADVICE

Appliancesdirect's Cooker Hoods Buying Guide is great, and you can ask questions on Live Chat. You can also shop 17 leading brands, such as Neff, Faber and Smeg.

#### **CEILING SITED**

Luxair has a full in-ceiling range, from slimline options for shallow ceiling voids, to ceiling boxes to bring the extractor closer to the hob.

## **IDEAL HOME LOVES...** BARELY THERE EXTRACTORS



#### SOUND CHOICE

This jukebox design hides beneath the worktop when not in use.

DD925CO Nosta downdraft extractor, Caple



#### **REACH OUT**

A pull-out panel increases odour-catching abilities.

BHP623E11XUK telescopic cooker hood, Gorenje



#### **UNDER COVER**

Tucked under a cabinet, this steel and glass number hardly shows.

N30 Conventional hood, Neff

## It works hard for us?

Beef farmers Alison and Rob Snook needed a kitchen that could keep up with their long-hours lifestyle



BEFORE



## Welcome to my home

Alison Snook lives here with her husband Rob.

### THE PROPERTY

A four-bedroom 300-year-old thatched farmhouse cottage in Devizes, Wiltshire.

66 As a working farm's kitchen, it had to cope with the realities of our lifestyle including muddy wellington boots and wet dogs! 99

'The room was far too small, especially as I use it as my office, and the light was poor. Removing walls gave us a larger space and room for the island I'd always wanted. Lacy-Hulbert Interiors came up with a new design. It took three months and the building work cost £20,000. We used a builder who works on the farm. The kitchen fitting came in at £2,400. Now it's complete, the kitchen is at the heart of our working day, although I do make Rob leave his welly boots at the front door!'





**ABOVE** A bare wood plate rack adds to the rustic feel of the kitchen. 'We decided on a white overmount cast-iron sink, which is a contemporary alternative to ceramic,' Alison says.

**Executive Chef double** cast-iron sink, Kohler. Etruscan tap in pewter finish, Perrin & Rowe

**ABOVE** The second-hand range cooker inspired the makeover: 'Once it was in, it made the kitchen feel even smaller and there was no space to sit,' says Alison.

Limestone Stoneworth Villiers floor tiles, Artisans of Devizes. For a similar range cooker, try Aga Rangemaster

**RIGHT** A bespoke dresser is a classic country piece, but also performs a vital function: 'The farm paperwork and filing cabinets are hidden inside, keeping the kitchen and office work separate.'

Bespoke Shaker-style dresser, Lacy-Hulbert Interiors

## WHAT I'VE LEARNED

**66**Expect the unexpected! We discovered a bricked up cellar and had to build support pillars to stop the kitchen floor collapsing when we removed the walls 99



EEATURE CAROLINE FOSTER, VANESSA RICHMOND STYLING DILLY ORME PHOTOGRAPHS DAVID PARMITER

## Make it work for you

## **PRE-OWNED RANGE COOKERS**

Cast-iron ranges are built to last but can be pricey. Check out the roaring trade in reconditioned range cookers...

There is something about a range cooker that gives a kitchen personality. The only problem? They're not cheap, which is why many people buy second-hand. Here, we explain how to find the range of your dreams for a fraction of the cost of a new one.

Where do I start? First off, you'll need to consider what type of cooker you require. Will it be electric or gas or oil powered? An Aga or an Esse? The most popular tend to be electric models like the Dual or Total Control Aga, where you're able to turn the hobs or ovens on and off separately, reducing running costs. Gas or oil-fired cookers can be cheap to run, too, but require a flue system and annual servicing.

## Do second-hand cookers come with a warranty?

Buy a pre-owned or fully reconditioned Aga cooker from a business, and you should expect at least a statutory guarantee not something you'll get if you buy privately.

How much will I save? Potentially, thousands of pounds. On a recent search, a reconditioned three-oven, electric Aga could snapped up for half the price of a brand new model.

## How do I collect and install a second-hand range?

While a freestanding range is easy to remove, a cast-iron range or Aga will need to be dismantled, transported and refitted by an expert. Not only is it extremely heavy, but if anything is lost or damaged in the move, it could be rendered worthless. 'Trying to move an Aga as a whole is not a good idea - the way in which the cooker is built means moving it as a whole can easily break internal seals or at worst stress fracture the cast iron,' says Anthony Harrison of Classy Cookers.



**66** Buying from an Aga-registered dealer will guarantee that you will get a purpose-built Aga and not parts of different Aga cookers put together 99

## **IDEAL HOME LOVES...** WHITE RANGES



**HANDY FEATURES** 

Catalytic oven liners make this range easy to keep clean.

1000 Deluxe dual-fuel range cooker, Falcon



**ALL MOD CONS** 

Get cooking faster with the nearinstant heat of the induction hob.

Elise 110 induction hob range cooker, Rangemaster



#### **HEATS YOUR HOME**

This stove combines an electric cooker with a wood stove.

990 Hybrid with a companion,

## **INSTALLATION**

Classy Cookers has a huge stock of pre-owned ranges. Once the sale goes through, it will dismantle the range in its current home and reassemble it in your kitchen.

## **PEACE OF MIND**

Twyford Cookers is an authorised Aga specialist that has a limited stock of reconditioned models which come with a five-year warranty.

#### THE PERFECT **COLOUR**

Blake & Bull converts, re-enamels and refurbishes Aga range cookers. Choose from more than 30 colours.





## Welcome to my home

KITCHEN PROJECT

Jacqui Roebuck lives here with her husband, lan.

### THE PROPERTY

A five-bed, detached Victorian house in Hastings, East Sussex.

66 Our favourite thing about the room is how much light it gets. It was so dark before, but now it feels so open and spacious 99

## HOW JACQUI AND IAN DID IT

'We started work as soon as we could get builders and structural surveyors on board. I drew all the plans myself, which was pretty stressful and we hit some problems when our surveyor said we needed a column where we wanted the island. But, luckily, our builder worked with him to find larger steels, which meant we could do without it. Designing the kitchen area entailed a lot of measuring and graph paper.

I'm a keen cook and I wanted a large island with cupboards on both sides. We already had most of the furniture and I spent a lot of time researching products to keep costs down. It took six months to do the work and the building costs were around £35,000. We love this space and spend most of our time here. It's perfect for entertaining family and friends, especially when we throw the doors open in the summer.'

**BELOW** The couple mixed second-hand wooden furniture with a new sofa in the dining and seating area opposite the kitchen. 'A home is more interesting when you mix old and new,' says Jacqui. 'Vintage treasures have given this space colour and personality.'

For a similar dining table, try Selling Antiques. Navy Style brass chairs, Cult Furniture. Ariana sofa in Ochre Velvet, Made.com





ABOVE Open shelves add storage and an opportunity for display in an awkward corner. Brass wall brackets give them a traditional touch.

Solid oak oiled floating shelves, eBay. Brass brackets, Ruby Roost



LEFT Jacqui and lan chose a stainless-steel range oven to provide lots of cooking space and bring a modern country feel to the kitchen.

Elise 110 cooker, Rangemaster. Mini metro tiles, Tons of Tiles. Bloomingville gold utensils are similar, Trouva

**ABOVE** Pink painted walls give a fresh, pretty and modern contrast to the deep green, traditionalstyle Shaker cabinets.

FLUTED FRONT Adds an authentic country aesthetic

Butler sink 800mm, Shaws of Darwen. Walls in Pink Halo kitchen and bathroom paint, Valspar at B&Q

## WHAT I'VE LEARNED

**66** Attention to detail is key to the final look. Taking time to source individual elements, like the brass handles, and finding decorative pieces gave this room its personality 99



# Painted Shaker

A classic choice, versatile Shaker kitchens look great in traditional and modern schemes

haker is such a popular choice that most kitchen companies will have their own take on it, so you can pick from a wide range of options - from simple off-the-shelf designs to something much more bespoke - depending on your taste and budget. Another option is to commission a local carpenter to build cabinets to your specific design, and then save some cash by painting them yourself.

**HARD-WEARING CHOICE** One of the most important things about a painted Shaker kitchen is its durability – a few dints and dents here and there will simply add to its charm. But if you want it to look as perfect as the day it was installed, it's easy to touch up. Tired of the colour completely? Then simply update with a new lick of paint. BE CAREFUL WITH COLOUR The

trend for bolder hues this year is great for those who love to add a bit of drama, but it is worth checking first that your room can take such a strong shade. Colour changes

depending on the light and can vary from one corner of a room to another. So, paint colour swatches on different walls, or, if you can, get a door sample in your chosen finish and move it around the room to judge how it reacts in various lights. If your room is fairly dark or small, consider using a bolder shade on base cabinetry but a lighter colour on any wall cabinets. **CLASSIC OR CONTEMPORARY?** Combining Shaker units with a flagstone floor, range cooker and wooden worktop will give you a classic farmhouse look, while pairing them with cool white composite, super sleek bar handles and a large format porcelain tiled floor will achieve a much more urban interpretation.

**APPLIANCE OPTIONS** A range cooker is often regarded as being at the heart of a traditional design. Go for one in a shade that tones with the cabinetry for a subtle look, or one in a bright colour for contrast. For the rest of your appliances, invest in integrated options to keep them out of sight.



## KITCHEN TREND







## Fabulous faux

For a budget-friendly alternative to traditional parquet flooring, try a hard-wearing, attractive vinyl instead.

**BUY THE KEY PIECES** Art Select Mountain Oak, Karndean

## Green dream

Ramp up the botanical indoor-outdoor vibe of your kitchen with a run of Shaker cabinetry in emerald green in front of a simple, oversized window.

## **BUY THE KEY PIECES**

Dunham kitchen in Forest Walk, Magnet

## Cool curves

Fancy something a little more organic and country style? Then go for white corner units with gently curved fronts, with a few added timber elements.

## **BUY THE KEY PIECES**

Bespoke kitchen, from The Main Company

**66** Updating hardware can have a big impact. Oak knobs are a classic choice, but if you're aiming for a modern feel, consider metallic finishes 99



**-EATURE** YSANNE BROOKS

## Make it work for you

## **MARBLE WORKTOPS**

A beautiful, statement-making worksurface in luxe marble (or a fab fake!) will add a touch of luxury to your kitchen project

Marble is one of the most popular choices for worktops right now, with gleaming white and veined surfaces trending in every style of kitchen.

What's the story? Marble has a luminosity and smoothness to the touch that sets it apart from other natural stones. It stays cool to the touch, which is why pastry chefs love it as it's great for working dough.

Are there disadvantages? Its porosity is one of the downsides, as it is susceptible to staining. Red wine or oil will seep in and are difficult to get out. It's also easily damaged by acidic liquids, like lemon juice, and is prone to scratches.

What about finishes? When it comes to worktops, there are two main types: honed, created by sanding the surface to give a matt finish, which won't show any scratches so easily; or polished, which has a highly reflective, glossy surface that shows off the vibrancy of the stone and is less likely to stain.

Is it expensive? Carrara marble is less expensive due to its slightly grey tone and feathery veins. You'll pay more for luxury varieties such as Calacatta or Statuario, which have brighter white colourings and more pronounced veining.

How do I look after it? Marble worktops should be sealed professionally when first installed, then every six months or so. This doesn't guarantee complete protection, so spills should be wiped up straight away, especially anything acidic. Clean marble using hot soapy water and a soft cloth, buffing dry to avoid water marks. Avoid lemon-scented detergents which can be acidic – go for a pH neutral cleaner and use it daily to keep your marble worktop looking good as new.



**66**A beautiful natural material, marble comes in an infinite range of colours, markings and veinings. No piece is the same as the next 99



This solid laminate is extra strong for durability.

**Evolve Marmo Calacatta solid** laminate worktop, Bushboard



OME LOVES... MARBLE-LOOK WORKTOPS

Veined edges make this quartz top look like real marble.

Radianz Lucern Lake quartz worktop, Ital-Stone



ADDED PROTECTION

AEON material provides added scuff resistance.

Calcutta marble laminate worktop, Worktop Express

## The Marble Workshop prides

itself on its extensive range. View what's in stock online or drop in to the showroom.

#### **EXPERT KNOWLEDGE**

Stone Age can offer help and advice when choosing a marble and skilled masons who can produce a bespoke worktop for you.

#### **EXOTIC VARIETIES**

Gerald Culliford imports marble from around the world and can help identify and source it if you're looking for a particular type of marble.





Mark and their teenage children, Jasper and Anna.

#### THE PROPERTY

A three-bedroom semi-detached 1880s farm worker's cottage in Wiltshire, bought in May 2008.

66I love our kitchen's unusual nooks and crannies, but they made refitting it a real challenge 🤊 🤊

'Units had been crammed into the room, which resulted in a mishmash,' says Isobel. The couple put up a wall between the kitchen and adjoining utility so they could put a long peninsula against it, adding tons of cupboard space.

Spray painted Shaker-style front-framed cabinet; honed Carrara marble worktop, both Lacy-Hulbert Interiors

#### **HOW ISOBEL AND MARK DID IT**

'We painted the existing units soon after moving in, but it wasn't a long-term solution. Everything was falling apart and one unit jutted out, so you had to walk around it. It looked horrible and made the space disjointed. There was so little storage, I had to buy a dresser to put in the room next door. I really wanted an island with a breakfast bar, even though the floor space was limited.

We hired a kitchen designer, who designed a better layout. An island wasn't possible, but building the partition wall meant we could have a peninsula unit. We began the extension in the August and it was finished by Christmas. We worked to a £30,000 budget, spending most of that on the cabinets but saved on fixtures and fittings. The quality is great and it's such a joy to use.'

**BELOW 'There's no window** at the end of the kitchen, so it was important to boost light,' says Isobel, who kept the scheme pale, with touches of oak for warmth, tying in with the original beams. Traditional-style units with marble worktops give a classic but modern look.

Walls painted in Wood Ash intelligent matt emulsion, Little Greene. Bumble stools, Loaf.





**ABOVE** What would have been wasted inches at the end of the run of units has been turned into slim, clever storage for tall bottles with handy slide-out shelves.

Concept Chateau ceramic



**IDEAL HOME** loves Larder cupboards They use the full height of your space, so you can pack a lot of dry goods into a relatively small 4

**LEFT A pivoting interior** shelving system makes every inch of the corner cabinet accessible, for plenty of pan storage.

Ceramic Cisterna C60 ceramic sink, Villeroy and Boch. Phoenix three-in-one hot water tap, Perrin & Rowe **ABOVE A contemporary** wood burner heats the space and gives it a modern rustic feeling.

Similar stove, Woolly Mammoth 7 XL woodburner, Direct Stoves. Similar bucket, Wildon Home steel log carrier in cream, Wayfair

### **WHAT I'VE LEARNED**

**66** Considered and careful positioning of the units has created a feeling of space and balance in our previously awkward-shaped kitchen 99

**TREND** 

# Heritage Classics

The latest materials and colours help to give a new perspective on traditional cabinetry styles

efore 1926 and the advent of the Frankfurt kitchen, generally recognised as the first 'fitted' design, kitchens were more freestanding. In smaller homes, they'd amount to not much more than an open fire or range cooker and a central table. In grander homes, it was a below-stairs affair, with huge larders and stores the cook needed to prepare meals for her well-to-do family.

**SIZE ISN'T EVERYTHING These** days, most of us don't have space for a huge room, let alone a cook, but the popularity of period-style kitchen cabinetry has definitely stood the test of time. While Shaker may be the favourite for dressing up or down, fancier, traditional cabinetry makes a real statement and is perfect if you prefer classic lines or a countrymanor style design. In more compact spaces try to include some open shelving – to display a favourite plate or vase collection - but don't over-fill. **PICK YOUR PERIOD** Kitchen designs described as Victorian and Edwardian often have an in-frame Shaker panelled shape at their core but include more detailing. Delicate

beading with rounded 'pencil' and 'half-pencil' profiles adorn the central frame to add interest. For fancier additions, look for designs that include decorative corbels and barley-twist pilasters and spindles.

#### **HAVE A CENTRAL FEATURE**

Whether it's a modern island or a rustic table, a centrepiece for the family to sit at is key. If you're adding an island unit, top with a gently patterned replica-stone composite and add a seating area so family can gather round at the end of the day. A table can double as a workspace make life easier by choosing one with drawers for table linen and cutlery. **ADD COLOUR** Classic kitchen cabinetry is having a renaissance but this time in a bolder hue. Matt blacks, deep blues and graphite shades give an elegant appearance and can also prevent some designs becoming over-fussy. Try Farrow & Ball's Railings or Hague Blue in an estate eggshell finish but avoid going too dark in smaller rooms. Grey is still on trend, from pale, almost off-whites to granite. The wonderful thing about painted cabinetry is that if it's in a shade that falls out of fashion it can always be painted in something more on-trend.

66 Zone your kitchen space so that the island becomes a transitional area used for rinsing and food preparation ">>





#### **KITCHEN TREND**



#### **<b>▼ SERVE YOU RIGHT**

Evoke a below-stairs feel with heaps of open storage filled with your favourite serveware and add a stylish ladder to get to those hard-toreach places.

Suffolk Bespoke Kitchen, Neptune

#### URBAN INTERIOR ▶

For classic grand kitchen style add a batterie de cuisine over your island to show off your best pots, pans and utensils. Siematic BeauxArts Kitchen featuring a

Chinese Wedding Cabinet, Urban Interior (London)

#### **▼ FLOWER POWER**

Floral accessories, chintzy china and a stand-out wallpaper will instil a sense of fun

into any design.
The Pepperstock Kitchen,
Christian Blake Bespoke
Kitchens







66 Wallpaper is often thought of as a no-no in a kitchen but it can add a touch of grandeur. If you want to use wallpaper in an area close to water, protect it with a piece of glass 🤊







- Opt for a Belfast or butler-style sink to give a real farmhouse vibe and add bridge mixer taps with white ceramic handles - try Perrin & Rowe - for a retro feel.
- Choose your worktop to match your style. A granite- or quartz-look composite in white will create the atmosphere of a grand manor while rich woods have more of a country kitchen feel.
- Choose vintage accessories such as zinc containers, wirework baskets and enamel serveware.
- ♦ Make a feature of a range by positioning it in a recess and surrounding with a grand

mantlepiece supported by decorative corbels.

- Wooden slatted potboards on islands and peninsulas look the part and are a great place to display large decorative mixing bowls and jugs.
- Collections of blue and white pottery were a feature in the kitchens of grand country houses and can look equally attractive in a modern home. Ikea has picture shelves that can easily be fixed to hold large plates.
- Adding a range in a larger room will help to give the space grandeur. Opt for traditional styles from companies such as La Cornue or Lacanche for a touch of Gallic style.



# We made the most of every inch' Nick and Rosie Richards took a long, narrow kitchen and extended it sideways to create a light and bright family friendly space **ENGINEERED** Can be sanded and refinished in different tones 82 KITCHEN HANDBOOK

#### KITCHEN PROJECT



### Welcome to our home

Nick and Rosie Richards live here with their two children, Arnie and Wilbur.

#### THE PROPERTY

A five-bed Victorian terraced house in southeast London.

66We can sit at the island and read a paper, watch the news or chat while the kids play around us. It really is a fun place 99

'It hadn't been touched for 15 years and the units were falling apart. With a baby on the way, we wanted to turn it into a real family room.' A pitched roof with blackframed glazing, exposed beams and white walls has created a light, airy feel. 'Now, we can entertain and all enjoy the same space.'

Kitchen carcasses with bespoke doors, Howdens. Bespoke enamel pendant lights, Enamel Shades



#### KITCHEN PROJECT



ABOVE This three-in-one water tap provides hot, cold and boiling water, saving worktop space as it replaces the need for a kettle.

Lamona Arroscia hot water tap, We Love Kitchens

**MICROWAVE CUPBOARD** Keeps all the ugly, but useful, stuff out of sight

ABOVE Nick and Rosie wanted to avoid traditional Shaker-style doors, so chose a design with v-grooves, which give depth to a flat panel. The addition of plain black handles creates a classic look.

Doors in Ammonite, Farrow & Ball. Pencil Alalpardo tiles in Blue and Black, Bert & May

RIGHT The stackable kitchen stools were bought on eBay and provide an informal seating space. Nick and Rosie felt wall units would oppress the space too much, so decided to hang artwork instead, adding a splash of colour.

Try retro industrial stacking stools, Woodmancote Retro



#### WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

66 Explore different layouts, focusing on where ovens, tables and islands will be, and how much room you want between your table and cupboards 99

**TREND** 

# Old meets new

Take a traditional style as your base then add a few modern touches for a contemporary take on period design

haker continues to be one of the most popular kitchen styles as it's so versatile. While 'in-frame' Shaker designs are usually found in handmade, bespoke kitchens, its popularity means that almost all manufacturers have a Shaker-style door in their collection. So, whether you're looking at a hand-painted wooden in-frame design or a lay-on door in a melamine foil, there will be an option in your price range.

#### **ADD CONTEMPORARY STYLING**

Shaker cabinets are a solid base on which to build your look and are extremely adaptable – looking as good paired with a range cooker and open shelving as with modern built-in appliances and sleek surfaces.

#### FIND YOUR COLOUR MATCH

Cream and white kitchens are still popular, with pale greys coming forward. Neutral colours will provide a modern base on which to build think about pale greys or an earthy palette of stone shades. More recently, dark painted cabinets such as graphite, navy and even black are coming into fashion. The beauty of hand-painted cabinetry is that,

although it is more expensive than a foil door, it's fairly easy to paint over. Colours can alter in different lights. so use samples to test shades to see how they change from place to place and from day to night.

#### **PICK A MODERN SURFACE**

Traditionally, Shaker cabinets were topped with wooden worktops but a more contemporary option is a hardwearing composite in a range of colours from snow-white to black. Recent advances in technology mean composites can more accurately portray natural materials, such as marble, too. The delicate veining has been reproduced by brands such as Caesarstone and Silestone, while laminate options are available from companies such as Bushboard.

#### **CHOOSE MODERN APPLIANCES**

Originally the heart of a Shaker kitchen would have been a big, cast-iron range but the adaptability of Shaker means it also works paired with sleek, built-in appliances. Keeping those mod cons out of sight behind doors will give your cabinets more opportunity to shine, but if you still want a range but don't want to go 'full country' then choose a model from Smeg, Britannia or Rangemaster.

66 There is a strong move towards a classic look which is calmer and more orderly with a modern interpretation ">>





#### **KITCHEN TREND**



#### **▼PARTY ON**

Make entertaining a breeze by including cutlery drawers, china cupboards and a wine fridge in an island. Burbidge Barnes kitchen in Alabaster

#### BE BRIGHT ▶

Bring plenty of daylight into a kitchen extension by installing skylights and the must-have architectural addition of the moment, Crittall metal framed doors and windows.

Kitchens, Charlie Kingham

#### **▼ PLAY WITH DISPLAY**

Utensil rails below wall cupboards are ideal for drying herbs, while open shelving on one side of an island is the perfect spot for a family display. Dunham kitchen in grey, Magnet

60





66 Trends this year are seeing the introduction of more colour on cabinetry, most noticeably across the neutral palettes, with softer, more delicate influences coming through ??







Pick a range oven with modern styling in a bold primary colour to contrast with painted cabinetry in neutral shades.

FOR YOU

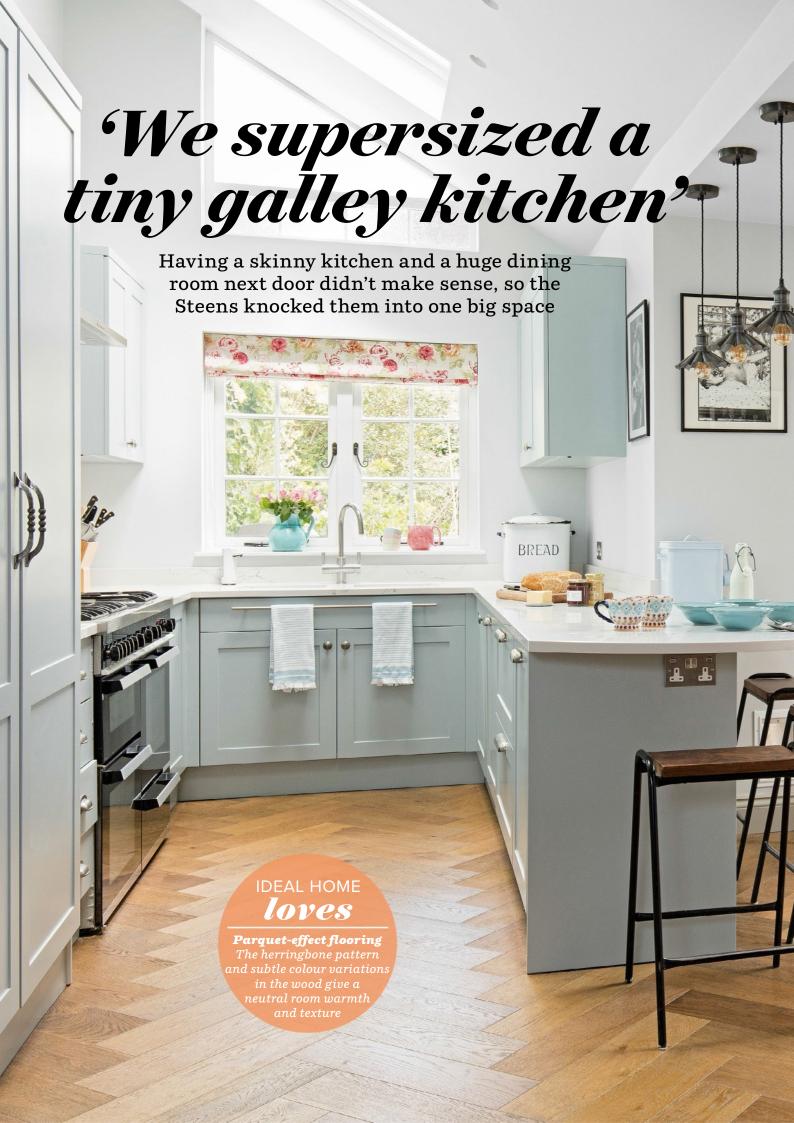
- ◆ Add wooden accents with timber butcher's blocks or breakfast bars. For added versatility, think about a chopping block on an island or a timbertopped wheeled trolley.
- Get the finish right.

  A durable matt eggshell paint on cabinets is the perfect way to show off the clean, simple lines of Shaker furniture.
- ◆ Include a versatile larder in your design with internal solutions that are tailored to your needs. If you're a keen baker or cook, it could store all your

ingredients in one easily accessible spot. If you'd like it to double as a simple breakfast station then you can just add plug sockets inside.

- ◆ Choose a modern floor option that's hardwearing, too. Good choices are porcelain or ceramic tiles in subtle shades. Go for large format tiles with fewer grout lines for an unfussy feel.
- ◆ Adapt your look on a budget by choosing a few modern accessories to keep the look fresh. Opt for colourful pieces such as chopping boards and utensils with sleek styling, or go for a slightly more mid-century look with florals and enamelware.







## Welcome to my home

**Louise Steen lives** here with her husband, James, and their sons Charlie and Billy, and daughter Daisy.

#### THE PROPERTY

A five-bedroom Edwardian semi in southwest London.

66 Making it one space has changed the way we live. It's where everyone congregates! 99

#### **HOW LOUISE AND JAMES DID IT**

'We'd been here for 14 years and the kitchen and dining area never really worked! It was tough to have more than one person in the kitchen at a time and it was always dark. Plus, the only access to the garden was a small door. We couldn't stand it any longer, so we got Giles Sequeira of Empire Build in and he suggested pitching the roof at the kitchen end and adding a large roof lantern to bring in more light.

We also blocked in the old garden door and replaced the dining room window with lovely French doors. It was a major upheaval, as we couldn't use the back of the house at all for 14 weeks, and the building work and kitchen fitting cost £46,000. We chose painted units for an unfussy moderncountry look, in soft blue to add colour and personality. They look like they've always been there!'

**BELOW** 'Taking down the wall between the kitchen and dining room meant we could have a breakfast bar, which has become the place everyone wants to sit. They perch on the stools while James or I cook, which we both love,' says Louise. 'The breakfast bar also shields the dining area from the business end of the space.'

Statuario Nuvo 30mm worktop and splashback, Caesarstone. Vintage lab stools, eBay







ABOVE 'A larder was on my fantasy list, but there wasn't room, so this is the next best thing - a unit with shelves and drawers hidden away behind doors,' says Louise.

Larder, Empire Build; painted in Bone China Blue intelligent eggshell, Little Greene

**ABOVE** 'We've created a ton of storage with built-in cupboards along the back wall, with a ledge that can be used as a seat.'

Handmade doors, Empire Build. Tablecloth, Only Oilcloths. Volfgang chairs, Ikea, are similar

**RIGHT** 'Having the units hand made was nowhere near as expensive as we'd thought and meant we could choose the size and colour, and get exactly the right amount of storage.'

Bespoke kitchen, Ellerton at Home range, Empire Build

#### WHAT I'VE LEARNED

**66** Spend where it makes a difference. If we'd kept the flat roof, it wouldn't have been such a successful project. Pitching the roof has transformed that end of the room 99



## Make it work for you

#### **BESPOKE KITCHEN DESIGN**

Can't find an off-the-peg kitchen that suits? Take a tailor-made approach by choosing a custom design that fits your space perfectly

If you're after a one-of-a-kind kitchen, then going bespoke is the perfect solution. Designed specifically with you and your space in mind, you get to choose every detail, from the size and positioning of the units to the type of island, the colour scheme and the worktops, for a completely unique finish.

Where do I start? Do your research first, so you know what you want before contacting any kitchen companies. Look at magazines, kitchen brochures, showrooms and online (Pinterest and Instagram are great sources of inspiration) and put together a mood board of what you like, ready to show a designer.

Who should I use? Always choose an established company with a reputation for hand-crafted joinery. There's nothing better than a personal recommendation, but it's also worth speaking to local companies who provide a bespoke service, checking their online reviews. You can also ask to visit past projects to check the quality of the work.

How much input will I have? Finding a designer that you've got a rapport with can make all the difference. After talking through

your requirements, measuring up and advising on what's achievable, they'll put together a detailed brief and draw up a plan. Be clear about what you want and ask questions - the more input you have at the design stage, the better.

What can I expect to pay? Prices vary considerably. Always have a plan of how much you want to spend and be upfront about it, and get a written quote (not an estimate) as this is the final price you'll pay and should include a detailed timeline.

What if there's a problem? Keep all paperwork just in case. In the UK, choosing trades accredited by bodies like TrustMark, the KBSA or the IKBBI can help resolve issues, as you can approach them directly for a dispute resolution. Also avoid paying the full balance before completion and pay by credit card if you can, for extra protection.

A bespoke design is tailored to your unique needs **BEST FOR... ONLINE ADVICE** 

**66**A bespoke kitchen will be built around how you want it to work, rather than you having to adapt your ideas to match what is available off-the-shelf 99

is a UK government endorsed site where you can find useful tips and advice as well as a directory of registered tradespeople.

Trustmark.org.uk

#### **SEMI-BESPOKE**

For a less pricey alternative to totally custom designs, look at kitchen companies who can tailor existing ranges, such as Neptune.

#### **COLOUR**

If you're nit-picking over the perfect shade for a painted kitchen, browse Farrow & Ball's often-used paint range for online colour inspiration.

#### **IDEAL HOME LOVES...** COLOURFUL BESPOKE KITCHENS



**GO GREEN** 

Keep it traditional with panelled doors in a smart bottle green.

Arbor bespoke kitchen, **Harvey Jones** 



#### INTO THE BLUE

Team classic blue and white for a timeless look.

> Bespoke kitchen, Martin Moore



TOUCH OF PINK

Go for sleek, flush-front doors in a chic charcoal and blush combo.

> Bespoke kitchen, Life Kitchens



# Mellow timbers

Classic wood is back but the rich walnuts of a few years ago have been replaced by delicate grains, perfect for modern living

ood kitchens have always been a favourite, but styles wax and wane. Now, rich walnuts and the unusual linear patterns of wenge and zebrano are making way for paler textural timbers. Wood suits contemporary and classic schemes, from smooth flat-fronted modern cabinetry to rough-sawn country style units, so there is a timber look for everyone.

**WORK THOSE TOPS** Wooden units and doors work well with most surface finishes so you can opt for plain composites, bold granites, laminates or even stainless steel. MAKE A BREAK Too much wood can feel oppressive. In larger rooms, try adding side panels that match the worktops rather than the cabinets. This can work well on islands where waterfall worktops and breakfast bars in a pale composite provide a good contrast. You can also mix and match furniture, choosing timber for the base and painted or neutral-toned high-gloss cabinetry on the walls. **PERFECT FINISH Dramatic dark** woods such as walnut and zebrano can look amazing but it's easy to fall

out of love with them so it's no surprise that tastes have swung in favour of paler timbers. This time it's oak that is coming to the fore. Heavily grained cabinets are a popular choice, while lime-washed timbers and rough-sawn textures are also on trend. If you have a wooden table and chairs or freestanding larder, choose a similar toned wood to avoid a clash. Paint tables and shelves with a good furniture paint, such as chalk paints from Annie Sloan, for interest.

**ON THE FLOOR** Use flooring to accentuate the overall look. Opt for natural stone or ceramic tiles for a cosy farmhouse kitchen feel. Glossy large format tiles in a composite or ceramic – or even a faux-stone vinyl - will add a modern edge. It's best not to choose a wooden floor as it could become overpowering. If you do, look for paler, plainer boards, or add a wash to original wood floors. **ILLUMINATING IDEAS** Think about lighting, particularly if your cabinets have a very matt finish. Add task spots below wall cabinets and mood lighting over a dining table or island. Avoid shadowy corners by eschewing dark tops and wall cabinets for paler worktops and shelving where possible.

66 Pale grained woods have a traditional heritage, but can also feel ultra modern. It's a look that never dates?





#### KITCHEN TREND



**◆ CHALK IT UP**Dress up a simple flat-fronted oak-look kitchen design with a fun feature wall finished in chalkboard paint perfect for shopping lists and keeping the kids out of the cooking area while you work.

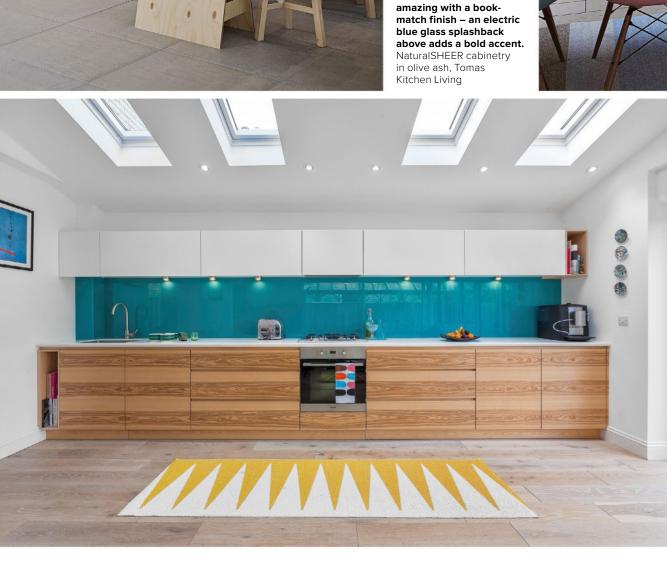
Sandford Textured Oak Style, B&Q

MAKE IT MATCH ►
Create unity in a kitchen, dining and entertaining space by choosing bookshelves and media area furniture in a wood grain that matches your kitchen. Finish with a few funky accessories.

Integra Alpine Graphite, Magnet

#### **▼ NATURAL PATTERN**

Even just a single run of handleless timber cabinets can look amazing with a book-





**66** Kitchen furniture trends in wood now include sophisticated styles that are more in touch with nature, and oak is leading the way 🤊





## IDEAL HOME expert tip

Use an uber-slim profiled worksurface above cabinets with a pull recess for a super-sleek contemporary look





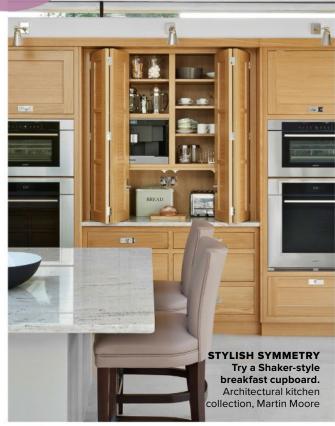
♦ Horizontal wall units and open shelving will

help to give depth to an all-wood kitchen. Placing a wine or plate rack between cupboards will also help to break up an expanse of timber.

- ◆ Add a few steel accessories to give timber a modern edge. Try steel bar handles for a vibrant look or choose brushed metal for a softer feel.
- ◆ A range cooker looks great in a wood kitchen. For a modern feel choose a sleek, steel model or opt for a bright, colourful range to add an extra sense of fun.
- ◆ Cabinetry with curves will help to show off a wood's natural grain. Or

add a circular end-grain chopping board to an island to give it character.

- ◆ Add a bold accent such as a colourful splashback or feature wall. Mid-century favourites such as olive greens and mustard yellows are a perfect match for mid-toned oaks.
- ◆ Take care of your wood by treating it well. Natural timbers will be supplied oiled or varnished but will need maintenance to keep them looking their best, while foil doors can simply be wiped clean.
- ◆ For a stunning symmetrical effect on a long run of flat-fronted, handleless cabinets opt for a rich-grained bookmatched timber design.



#### WINE COOLING

Whether you're a serious wine collector or just enjoy the occasional glass, store your favourite tipple in the right environment to keep it in perfect condition

Wine ages best when stored in a cellar. However, for many of us a wine storage unit is the next best thing. Here we help you narrow down your options.

#### Why do I need to store wine correctly?

Storing and serving wine at the wrong temperature can have a bad effect on flavour. 'When wine is kept too cold for too long. the cork can harden. The seal can then fail, making the liquid oxidised and stale,' explains Ryan Twiss of Stoves. 'Equally, wines that are kept too warm will also reduce in quality and become stale before their time.'

#### What's the recommended temperature to store wine?

White wine is best kept between 8-12°C, red wine requires a warmer environment between 12-19°C and sparkling is successfully stored around 5-8°C.

#### Can I keep different wines at the right temperatures?

If you enjoy a variety of wines, look for a wine cooler with two or three independent temperature zones. This allows red wine.

white wine and champagnes to be correctly stored in one unit.

#### I know that heat and sunlight will affect wine quality. How can I protect it?

UV rays can cause premature ageing of wine so a tinted glass door on a wine conditioning unit is imperative, as is LED lighting that won't heat the surrounding air. 'Filters also ensure that no unwanted odours permeate corks,' says Max McCormick of Miele GB.

#### How can humidity affect my wine?

'When humidity is higher than 70%, it will likely cause mould and degradation of the labels and glue. When the humidity is below 50%, corks will begin to dry out resulting in possible oxidation of the wine,' explains Carrie Bell of CDA. 'A wine cellar humidity level of 60% is ideal.'

A wine cooler will keep your drinks stored to perfection **BEST FOR...** CHOICE

**66** Wine kept in a cupboard loses quality and flavour four times as quickly as that stored in a wine cooler. If you don't store it properly you could be wasting money 99

Appliances Direct offers a wide range of brands, heights, widths, depths and fit types. You can even search for your perfect wine cooler by the number of bottles you want to store.

#### **RECYCLING**

Check to see if a company will take away your old wine cooler when it delivers your new one, saving you the hassle of taking it to the tip.

#### ADVICE

Wineandbarrels. co.uk has put together a guide to choosing the right wine cabinet for you.

#### **IDEAL HOME LOVES...** WINE STORAGE UNITS



**SLIM FIT** Dual zone, holds 18 bottles.

RWC3018BL wine cabinet, Rangemaster



**COOL OPERATOR** 

Plenty of room to store up to 30 bottles.

Haier WS30GA wine cooler, AO.com



Also available in black. holds 46 bottles.

> 600WC wine cooler, Stoves



FREE-STANDING

Dual zone, stores up to 45 bottles.

FWC604SS wine cooler, CDA



## **COSY UP FLOORS WITH A RUNNER**

No underfloor heating? Give your feet a treat with a floor runner to break up chilly tiles or flagstone.

#### **REPLACE SHABBY OR DATED HARDWARE**

A quick way to give your kitchen a smart new look is to update sticky, tired-looking cupboard door handles with some on-trend copper or brass options. Try your local ironmonger, DIY store or browse online at Handles4Doors.



Cheat a new splashback Create a statement splashback with tiles (or fake

the look with wallpaper -Recubed, Smink Things) and

edge the top of it with a slim shelf. It makes a great divide and is the perfect place to store and display teapots and mugs ready for elevenses.



**PUT UP A NEW WALL CLOCK** Install an extralarge clock to make sure brekkie doesn't run over. No more excuses to be late to school/work/the gym!



GLAM UP YOUR
DISH DRAINER

If you're looking for the ultimate cohesive look in your kitchen, then add a bit of bling to the washing up area with a glamorous, golden dish rack. Available in copper and matt black, too, it has plenty of room for drying plates, bowls and glassware, as well as a separate space for cutlery and utensils.

Gold kitchen dish rack, Cult Furniture





Paint the inside of cupboards

If you've gone for glass-fronted wall cupboards, consider painting the insides so your crockery and glassware look their best.

Go for a muted shade that complements your wall colour.

REVIVE WOODEN WORKTOPS

If your wooden worktop is sad, chipped and tired, give it a good sand and restain or oil it back to its former glory. Give it a clean with white spirit before oiling or staining.



Make it social
Plan your kitchen so your hob is positioned in the centre of the island, meaning you won't have to turn your back on guests or family while cooking. An extractor fan above the island can also be an extra source of lighting.



**UPDATE YOUR BREAD BIN** Combining the sleek curves of retro designs with a modern textured finish, a neat new bread bin like this will keep your bread fresher for longer.



# Take an

A kitchen island is great for prep and storage, but doesn't allow much flexibility in an open-plan space. Go for a large trolley that can be parked in place when in use. but moved aside to make room.

#### **UPGRADE** YOUR WORKTOP **APPLIANCES**

Ditch your rusting kettle and old toaster and go for a smart, new upgrade to make tea time

a little bit more glam. Choose a matching set for a cohesive look.

Evoke jug kettle in black rose gold, Morphy Richards at Very





Store your cookware on simple, industrial shelves rather than letting them take up space in cupboards. Scaffolding boards or wooden planks are ideal.



**DISPLAY A COLLECTION** If you're feeling creative, make a display out of several wall clocks, a selection of different sized mirrors, or a few of your favourite plates hung on the wall.

#### **DISGUISE** UGLY **APPLIANCES**

Personalise your kitchen while hiding a mundane dishwasher, using a colourful appliance front. Easy to install and available in a number of colours and designs, they will keep your space looking sleek and streamlined, plus protect your appliances from knocks and scratches.



# 18 DECANT DRIED GOODS

Pop your pasta, rice and other dried foods in these stylish jars and keep them within easy reach of your hob for speedy cooking and to free up precious cupboard space!

Paint walls white

Family kitchens can be pretty chaotic, so use the decor to set the right mood. White walls and units, plus pared-back furniture, will give you a calm foundation.

# 20 CHANGE UP YOUR KITCHEN TEXTILES

The little details are often inexpensive but make a big difference, so pick up a set of co-ordinated linens, and use the old ones for cleaning and dusting.



MIX TILE AND BRICK
To shake up your textures and add industrial charm, try tiling just a third of the way up your wall, leaving the top as exposed brick.



INSTALL PLINTH LIGHTING
Create a cosy glow in your kitchen by fitting tiny lights in your cupboard plinths. Choose from warm gold, cool white, or, if you're partial to a party or two, go for an RGB colour-changing option.



#### Give it an industrial

Open shelves, rails and plenty of storage containers create a modern factory feel in a kitchen. Keep your cookware and crockery simple and cohesive to avoid a busy look, and give everything its own home.

## **INVEST**

While drinks trolleys are still having their moment, they might not be that practical a choice in a kitchen, but a freestanding drinks cabinet could be just the thing for making light work of hosting duties. This modern, tall cabinet has room for plenty of glasses, ten bottles and even an ice bucket, so guests can easily help themselves while you cook.



Home

**TAKE A FRUIT BOWL TO NEW HEIGHTS** Turn a large, tiered cake

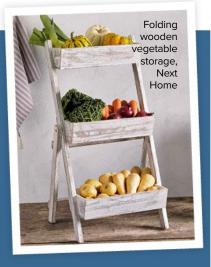
stand into a new home for your fruit, by storing each variety on a different level. Keep the bananas at the bottom so they don't ripen the rest.





# WINDOW SHUTTERS

Ideal for allowing optimum light into your kitchen, while still providing privacy, halfheight shutters are the ideal solution for a streamlined look in a period home.



Store veg with style
This three-tiered storage ladder is ideal for fresh groceries that don't need to be in the fridge. The white-washed finish means it's nice enough to keep out on display, too.

**TAP INTO BLACK** Upgrade your tired, limescale-covered kitchen tap, with a more on-trend option, such as this traditionalstyle matt black mixer tap from Ikea. The simple swap will transform your sink in an instant, and will be much easier to keep clean than a shiny, chrome version. Take the look one

> Glittran kitchen mixer tap, Ikea

step further and swap

your hardware, such

as drawer handles,

to matt black, too.

PAINT THE FRIDGE

Mask off a large rectangle in the centre of your fridge door and paint with black chalkboard paint to keep your meal plan or shopping list in plain sight.





# Choose natural flooring

The finishing touch for any kitchen is the floor, so go for an option that not only looks great, but will last too, like this smart oak tile. Pick a design that comes with a guarantee so it'll keep its look for decades.

#### KITCHEN UPDATES

#### **UPDATE YOUR BAR STOOLS**

Refresh your breakfast bar area with a smart stool like this design. Slim, fuss-free metal legs ensure the stools won't look too blocky, plus they're lightweight and easy to move. What's more, the simple, neutral design won't look out of place in a either a modern or traditional kitchen setting.





### Work in open

To prevent small spaces from feeling cramped, swap wall units for shelving. Or, simply remove cupboard doors and paint the edges to create a display unit.



ADD UNDER-CUPBOARD **TASK LIGHTING** Whether in the form of strip lights or batteryoperated push lights, adding lighting underneath your wall cabinets will give your kitchen another level of light.



#### Fake a weathered

These faux weathered wood laminate planks will create a New England, coastal feel at a fraction of the price of real wood. Plus, they're super hard wearing, too.

#### **ADD SOME GLAMOUR** WITH LIGHTING

Go for knock-out lighting to really add wow-factor to your kitchen. This contemporary option will allow plenty of light to shine in your space, or for a bit more bling, choose a full chandelier instead, which will make a real impact.

Selene Sputnik ceiling light, JD Williams Home

REPLACE SWITCHES **AND SOCKETS** Swap cracked and faded

plug sockets and light switches for bright new ones. Stick to classic white, or turn to page 115 for some contemporary-style inspiration.



A single row of mismatched decorative tiles is an inexpensive way to create a striking splashback that will lift a simple scheme out of the ordinary, as well as keeping costs low. Choose geometric designs to stop the look becoming too twee or country, and stick to the same size and tone.



**STANDING** ARDER OR PANTRY

The ultimate 'must have' on many a kitchen wish list – go for a design with plenty of drawers and racks and paint it to suit your style.

FEATURE HOLLY WALSH PHOTOGRAPHS FUTURECONTENTHUB.COM

# Make it work for you

#### **DESIGNER SOCKETS**

The latest sockets now come in striking colours and finishes that are guaranteed to brighten up walls

Switching out white sockets for fancy designer ones is a quick way to achieve a smart, coordinated look. It's also a chance to include options that take care of charging devices.

Does one size fit all? Face plates are a standard size to ensure fixing screws align with the back box, which is sold separately and embedded in the wall. However, some modern flat plate and screwless designs require 35mm-deep back boxes, while back boxes for standard white sockets are 25mm deep.

### What if my walls are wonky?

Modern flat-plate sockets are aimed at modern, flat walls and may not sit neatly on older, uneven walls. Designs that stand proud of the wall are much more forgiving and more in keeping with period homes.

## How do I decide on colours and finishes?

Metallic finishes are easily matched with existing hardware such as cabinet handles and light fittings. Black is a safe option as it goes with everything. Bear in mind that some metal plates can be damaged by fresh plaster that's not 100% dry.

Any discreet options?
Transparent face plates,
made from acrylic or glass,
can be painted or wallpapered
behind, leaving only the threepin hole and switch visible.
You can also get paintable
sockets – try Varilight Primed.

What tech can I get?
Buy sockets with USB ports
to charge devices. Smart sockets
with built-in Wi-Fi let you control
items, like lamps, from your
phone. Link to a compatible
device such as Alexa or Siri to
enable voice control. Sockets with
built-in Wi-Fi extenders will boost
the signal through your home.

**66** Stylish sockets show attention to design detail. Brass or smoked gold sockets are as eye-catching as any ornament **99** 



#### MATCHING METALLICS

**BEST FOR...** 

Corston Architectural Detail's collection comes in brass, bronze and nickel, all with matching handles etc for easy coordination.

#### INDUSTRIAL LUXE

Try Buster + Punch for industrial edge switches and sockets. Includes USB-only designs with smart pennybutton brass screws.

#### **SMART TECH**

LightwaveRF's Smart Sockets let you turn on the kettle from the comfort of your sofa, by voice command if you have Siri, Alexa or Google Assistant.

#### **IDEAL HOME LOVES...** COLOURFUL SOCKETS



Go for a sultry

Go for a sultry, boutique-hotel feel

Smoked Gold & Black double socket, Dowsing & Reynolds



RETRO ROUND
Choose something

Choose something chunky, cheerful and fun

Roo Pastels single socket in Salmon, Swtch



#### MELLOW YELLOW

Make the switch to bright and breezy

Dirty Yellow double socket, Livinghouse



#### PRETTY IN PINK

Opt for the perfect pastel to fit your scheme

Varilight double socket in Rose Pink, Socket Store



# Surface texture

Add depth to cabinetry, walls, floors and worktops with a textured finish

ombining natural materials such as wood and stone with either a gloss, handleless design or a painted Shaker kitchen will create impact. Cabinets in plain shades with understated fronts will also allow concrete, distressed timber and roughhewn surfaces to shine.

THE DARK SIDE Think timber in shades of grey and black with vertical graining that helps to give the impression of height as well as depth. If an entirely dark kitchen seems too bold or oppressive, consider a mix of open or glassed cabinets, or pair a dark wood island with a run of white units. **ADD AN ACCENT** If wooden cabinets aren't to your taste, you can use textured timber as an accent instead. A rich-grained breakfast bar is a perfect counterpoint to a glossy island, while a Shaker larder with wooden interior is a stunning addition to a period kitchen. For smaller hits of nature. add wooden shelves or clad the backs of industrial-style open units for contrast.

FABULOUS FLOORS Original wooden floorboards work as an attractive base for any kitchen design. But they will need caring for to keep them looking their best. Seal with oil regularly and use a specialist wood floor cleaner. If you're installing a new floor, then it's worth contemplating engineered boards as their layered structure makes them less susceptible to warping. For a country vibe, try rough-hewn, large format, natural stone tiles or go for geometric encaustic tiles for a modern spin on Victorian style.

GO FAUX Heavily veined marble is a key look for worksurfaces, but it's naturally quite porous, so you either need to get it treated fairly regularly, or just embrace the staining that will come from spills and splashes. Luckily, many makers of composite surfaces, have developed ranges that realistically replicate the natural veining of marble but are much more hard wearing and longlasting. Concrete is increasingly growing in popularity, too, but, similarly, a composite version is a much easier option.



#### KITCHEN TREND





#### The right vein

Introduce texture with an easy-clean, hard-wearing worktop that is designed to mimic the elegant veining of natural marble.

#### **BUY THE KEY PIECES**

Radianz Cirrus Collection Rio worktop, Gerald Culliford

#### Mix and match

Be confident and use different textures, patterns and colours to give your scheme added depth and interest.

#### **BUY THE KEY PIECES**

Matte graphite cabinetry with black fusion granite, Life Kitchens

#### Ace base

Wood floors suit any style but go for an engineered rather than natural timber plank for a hard-wearing and durable surface.

#### **BUY THE KEY PIECES**

Engineered oak lacquered plank, The Natural Wood Floor Company

**66** Combine function with form in the kitchen by softening the look of contemporary, linear cabinetry with an accent of textured wood?







# Metallic touches

Chrome used to be king in the kitchen but now we're after warmer, burnished metallic finishes

 $rass, copper\ and\ gold\ touches$ not only add a gentle, warming glow to a kitchen, but they also bring an element of glamour, too. While stainless steel - particularly for appliances, sinks and taps - has been the go-to material for a long time, softer finishes are now making their mark. **STAND-OUT FEATURE** If you'd like to experiment with metallic cabinetry but don't want to go the whole hog, then a metallic or metallic-look island is a great place to start. Plenty of manufacturers now have cabinetry ranges featuring solid doors that have been wrapped in a thin layer of metal and covered with a specialist finish. This provides a hard-wearing, elegant surface, perfect for a busy kitchen. Instead of an island, you could add drama by pairing plain base cabinetry with bronze or copper wall units. **ARTIST IMPRESSION** If a painted finish is your preference, then go for a specialist paint that contains metal for a realistic surface. For an industrial.

weathered appearance, use a patina solution such as Craig & Rose's Copper Patina over the top of its Artisan Copper Effect paint, Crafted by Crown's Lustrous Metallic Emulsion colours in Copper and Rose Gold, are another great option. But be careful, as some metallic paints don't wear well in high-moisture areas.

SPECIALITY SURFACES Look for tiles, worktops and flooring that feature elegant touches of gold or bronze as an accent - Oparo Diamond Arabesque or Lampas ranges from Topps Tiles are both ideal choices for a splashback with real grandeur. Natural granite often features copper-hued veining and colouration, but to see those elements at their best, a highshine or burnished finish is preferable. **ELEGANT EXTRAS** Small appliances are getting the metallic treatment, too, and they're a great way to dress up a kitchen on a budget. It's fine to mix different tones of the same shade, but try to avoid mixing brass, copper and gold to keep the look harmonious.



#### KITCHEN TREND



#### **KITCHEN TREND**



Gold trim on a banked wall of black glass appliances adds an extra layer of luxury in this kitchen.

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Dolce Stil Novo oven collection, Smeg

#### On the wall

Framed open shelving in an accent colour will create a sense of airiness and light in a timber- and bronze-toned design.

#### **BUY THE KEY PIECES**

Otto kitchen in Brushed Bronze and Matt Anthracite, Burbidge



#### Flair on tap

Liven up your sink area by adding a bit of bling in the shape of an elegant tap in a soft gold finish.

#### **BUY THE KEY PIECES**

Essence Kitchen collection L-spout tap in Warm Sunset finish, Grohe



66 Warm metallics can help create a cosy, welcoming vibe. For a touch of luxury think rose gold, or for drama, go for brass??

# Make it work for you

#### **SMART LIGHTING**

Find out if this clever tech could make your kitchen a more practical space, as well as brightening up your surroundings

Thanks to improvements in Wi-Fi connectivity, smart lighting has become much more affordable in recent years, and easier to retrofit, too.

Can I fit it myself?
Custom-wired installations are complicated and pricy, which is why plug-and-play smart lighting is attractive. If you can connect your phone to Wi-Fi and change a light bulb, then you should be able to set up your own system. The simplest option is individual smart bulbs or smart plugs (for lamps) that don't need a home hub to work. Download the supplier's app, and connect the bulb/plug to your Wi-Fi.

### What if I want smart lighting throughout?

Go for a system that uses a hub. After connecting the hub to your router via an ethernet cable, you can then wirelessly control all smart bulbs in your home using one app. Some home hubs, such as Amazon Echo Dot, Google Home and Apple HomeKit are compatible with multiple brands of smart bulbs and switches.

How are they controlled?
As well as an app, you
can also buy wireless switches,
including dimmers, that allow
you to turn lights on without
a device. Increasingly, smart
lighting can be linked to voicecontrol tech like Amazon Alexa
and Google Assistant for handsfree operation, including
changing light colour and levels.

What are the benefits? It depends on your system's features. Look for timers, remote operation (for deterring burglars) and programmable mood scenes that can be used to set different ambiences. For wider home integration, look for smart lighting compatible with other devices, like heating, blinds and home security – get your lights to come on automatically when blinds are drawn, for instance.

**66** Look for smart lighting compatible with multiple platforms, like Amazon Alexa, Apple's Siri and Google devices, for smooth and effortless home integration **99** 



#### WELL-LIT KITCHENS

Philips' Hue offers a full range of fittings to light your kitchen, including ceiling spotlights, light strips and undercabinet spotlights.

#### HOME AUTOMATION

Hive is best known for smart heating, but also offers lighting. It can even alert you if the dog is barking, and you can listen in.

#### TRYING IT OUT

LIFX's Wi-Fi-enabled smart bulbs have a hub built in for quick and easy set-up perfect if you want just a couple of smart lights in your home.

#### **IDEAL HOME LOVES...** STYLISH PENDANT LIGHTS



PRETTY IN PINK

Soft pastel provides a modern feminine touch.

Modu S pendant light in Pink, The Gifted Few



SHAPE SHIFTER

Natural weave casts interesting shadows.

Asho rattan pendant lampshade, Kalinko



#### MODERN VINTAGE

Early 20th century inspired design.

Brooklyn umbrella pendant in Brass, Industville



PRETTY GLASS

Perfect herringbone pattern to match parquet floors.

Idyll Home Grey glass pendant light, Notonthehighstreet.com

# Make it work for you

#### **ON-TREND TAPS**

A stylish new tap can upgrade your kitchen without the need for a full-on revamp. This is what you need to know...

The right tap can make all the difference to your kitchen, whether you're replacing an old one as a quick and easy revamp, or putting the final finishing touches to a refurbishment.

What's on-trend right now? Stainless steel and chrome have dominated the tap market for years, but recently there's been a move towards more standout materials, colours and finishes, with kitchen taps becoming a statement feature. Looks range from industrial-style copper taps with exposed pipework, or smart deco-style brushed brass, to more contemporary styles in luxe rose gold shades or matt black.

Are these hard wearing? Most taps are made of stainless steel or brass, which is finished with metallic plating or powder-coating. Brass is more durable, but is pricier than stainless steel. Powder-coating is used to create coloured finishes, from black or white to primary colours, while metallic finishes and hues range from highly polished rose gold or chrome, to burnished pewter and oil-rubbed bronze. Solid copper and brass taps are popular - left uncoated they develop an aged patina over time. A seamless finish is a good

indicator of quality, as is a heavy tap that feels substantial.

Must a tap match my sink?
No. While a matching black sink and tap or an all-copper ensemble can look striking, using contrasting materials works well too, such as a ceramic butler sink teamed with brass pillar taps.
For a cohesive look, choose a tap finish that ties in with finishes used elsewhere in your kitchen, such as cabinet handles, appliances or an accent colour.

Can I replace my old tap?
Yes. For a fast revamp, find a tap that requires the same number of cut-out holes as the old one, to avoid moving pipework. For most mixer taps, dual-flow and monoblocs, you need a single hole, pillar taps require two (as do some bridge mixer taps) and there are designs that need three.
Wall-mounted taps require none and save you worktop space, too.

**66** For a vintage look, cross-head taps in a bronze or copper finish give a nod to kitchens of the past. Or go for a more modern design with matt-finished taps in a funky geometrical shape **99** 



#### **BARGAIN HUNTS**

Find low-price buys at Sinks-taps.com, which stocks a good range of tap brands, including Abode and Franke.

#### LEADING TECH

For top innovations in monobloc taps, water-filtering and more, try Blanco.

#### INSPIRING IDEAS

The Bert & May and Fired Earth websites are fab for sourcing ideas on how to co-ordinate taps, worktops and tiles.

#### **TOP CHOICES**

For copper-hued tap designs and stylish wall-mounted ones, check out Wren Kitchens.

#### **IDEAL HOME LOVES...** A TOUCH OF COPPER



STAYING PUT
The non-fading finish
on this minimalist mixer
tap is copper-plated.
Alto, Olif



MULTI-TALENTED
Dispensing filtered water,
both boiling and cold, this
is an impressive option.
Omni, Franke



CURVE APPEAL
A chic two-hole,
wall-mounted wonder.
Zen, The Watermark
Collection



This retro-style mixer has a pull-out spray nozzle to reach all around the sink. MIDR7RA-2, Smeg



#### \* ON SALE NOW! \*

# Inspiration and advice to transform your home!

Fancy a home upgrade that won't break the bank? We share some of our best tips to update your house - from DIY projects and upcycling how-tos to must-have high street finds, your home will feel uniquely you!



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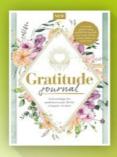














# **INSPIRING READS** FOR A HAPPIER YOU

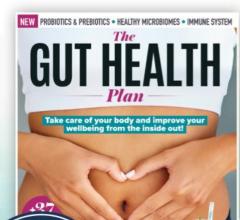
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#### 001

# BOOKAZIN

# Ideal Home's KITCHEN

### **HANDBOOK**

#### **EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO INSPIRE YOU**



#### TRADITIONAL LOOKS

With style that never dates, our real life makeovers are packed with neat ideas



#### **ADVICE & EASY UPDATES**

From quick and easy updates to essential product advice, we have everything covered



#### **TOP TRENDS**

Discover the latest looks in kitchen design to help you create your dream space



#### MODERN STYLES

Real kitchen makeovers that are a mustsee if you love a sleek, contemporary look